

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

INTRODUCED BY TAYLOR

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM
6 COMMITTEE OR DIRECT SUFFICIENT STAFF RESOURCES TO EXAMINE ~~MARKET ACCEPTANCE AND~~
7 ~~THE TIMING OF THE COMMERCIAL INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED WHEAT AND~~
8 ~~BARLEY INTO MONTANA, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROPS AND CROP CHARACTERISTICS THAT~~
9 ~~APPEAL TO THE NEEDS OF THE CUSTOMER AND THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE~~
10 ~~PRODUCER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFEGUARDS TO REDUCE OUTCROSSING AND POTENTIAL~~
11 ~~MIXING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS WITH NONGENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS, AND~~
12 ~~LIABILITY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS;~~
13 URGING MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY TO REPORT RESEARCH RESULTS TO THE LEGISLATURE
14 RELATED TO THE SAFETY OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED GRAINS AND RELATED ISSUES; URGING THE
15 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO EXPLORE AND PROMOTE APPROPRIATE BIOTECHNOLOGY
16 OPPORTUNITIES FOR MONTANA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS; REQUIRING THAT FINDINGS BE
17 PRESENTED TO AND REVIEWED BY A COMMITTEE; PROVIDING THAT THE STUDY BE COMPLETED BY
18 SEPTEMBER 15, 2004; AND PROVIDING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO
19 THE 59TH LEGISLATURE.

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21 WHEREAS, Montana's wheat and barley industry is a central and vital component of our state's
22 economy; and

23 WHEREAS, Montana's export markets have recognized Montana wheat and barley to be among the
24 finest in the world; and

25 WHEREAS, Montana has come to rely on these export customers to market a majority of Montana's
26 grain to Pacific Rim countries; and

27 WHEREAS, ~~a majority~~ SOME of these customers have not yet accepted genetically engineered grains;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of maintaining these foreign markets; AND

30 WHEREAS, BIOTECHNOLOGY HOLDS GREAT PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE IN FIGHTING GRAIN DISEASES AND IN

1 PROVIDING NEW NICHE MARKETS SIMILAR TO THE PRESENT MARKET FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS; AND

2 WHEREAS, QUESTIONS CONTINUE TO BE RAISED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS,
3 NECESSITATING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS; AND

4 WHEREAS, PROGRAMS AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY MAY PROVIDE THE RESEARCH NOT ONLY TO ADDRESS
5 SAFETY, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEW GENETICALLY ENGINEERED GRAIN VARIETIES, THE
6 ADVISABILITY AND TIMING OF THEIR RELEASE, AND THE PROPER HANDLING, PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, MARKETING,
7 TESTING, AND DISPOSITION OF NEW VARIETIES; AND

8 WHEREAS, THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS AN APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCY TO EXPLORE AND
9 PROMOTE BIOTECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES FOR MONTANA PRODUCERS; AND

10 WHEREAS, THE LEGISLATURE DESIRES TO DOCUMENT CREDIBLE FINDINGS REGARDING GENETICALLY
11 ENGINEERED GRAINS.

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13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
14 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

15 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
16 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine ~~the economic and social impacts of the~~
17 ~~commercial introduction of genetically engineered wheat and barley into Montana, including issues related to:~~

18 ~~———(1) market acceptance and the timing of the commercial introduction of genetically engineered wheat~~
19 ~~and barley;~~

20 ~~———(2) the development of wheat and barley and wheat and barley characteristics that appeal to the needs~~
21 ~~of the customer and that are economically beneficial to the producer;~~

22 ~~———(3) the development of safeguards to reduce outcrossing and potential mixing of genetically engineered~~
23 ~~wheat and barley with nongenetically engineered wheat and barley; and~~

24 ~~———(4) liability issues associated with the production and handling of genetically engineered wheat and~~
25 ~~barley.~~

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the entity conducting the study:

27 ~~———(1) invite participation by and involvement of interested and knowledgeable persons, including farmers,~~
28 ~~ranchers, property owners, industry representatives, and representatives of UNIVERSITY AND state and local~~
29 ~~governmental entities; and~~

30 ~~———(2) actively seek participation by citizens from all parts of Montana.~~

