

2005 Montana Legislature

UNAPPROVED DRAFT BILL – Subject to Change Without Notice

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____ JOINT RESOLUTION NO.

LC 1952

INTRODUCED BY _____

(Primary Sponsor)

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO DEVELOP, CONSOLIDATE, AND UPDATE FIRE-RELATED STATUTES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION AND MITIGATION AND TO ADDRESS DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ARISING FROM DROUGHT AND FOREST FUELS, AS WELL AS THE COMPLICATIONS AND COSTS OF FIGHTING FIRES IN WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACES.

WHEREAS, wildfires impose a large recurrent financial, human resources, and natural resources cost on Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana state agencies, as well as national and regional studies, commonly point to the high risk of wildfire posed by fuel accumulation; and

WHEREAS, movement into the wildland/urban interface has increased both the risk to inhabitants and the cost of fire suppression; and

WHEREAS, study is needed not only of these fire hazards but also of Montana's statutory response to these hazards and the use of local resources; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable sentiment among knowledgeable officials that Montana statutes are outdated or even silent on these important issues.

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

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to develop, consolidate, and update fire-related statutes, in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, wildland fire service organizations, and any other fire service organizations, to address dangerous environmental conditions and areas of wildland/urban interface and to improve wildland fire suppression and mitigation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded

prior to September 15, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 60th Legislature.

- END -

Latest Version of LC 1952 (LC1952.01)

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New language in a bill appears underlined, deleted material appears stricken.

Sponsor names are handwritten on introduced bills, hence do not appear on the bill until it is reprinted.

See the [status of this bill](#) for the bill's primary sponsor.

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Prepared by Montana Legislative Services

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