

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

INTRODUCED BY A. OLSON, GEBHARDT, MAEDJE

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF ISSUES RELATED TO CONTRACT HARVESTING OF TIMBER FROM SCHOOL TRUST LANDS.

WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution requires that school trust lands be managed for the support and benefit of various state educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation estimates that authorizing the department to sell logs directly from state lands could increase funding available for trust beneficiaries by as much as 30% over the current method of timber sales; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Natural Resources manages a program that allows contract harvesting on state lands for up to 10% of the total annual volume of timber offered for sale; and

WHEREAS, legislation that would have authorized a similar program in Montana passed the Senate by a 48-2 vote.

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 examine issues surrounding the possible implementation of a contract harvesting program for state lands in Montana, including but not limited to an examination of similar programs in other states, standards for log quality, accounting practices, standards for hiring loggers, stewardship contracting, revenue and expenses, and economic impacts to the logging industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that participants in the study include representatives of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, beneficiaries of trust lands, the Montana Logging Association, the Montana Wood Products Association, and the conservation community.

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



1 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2006.

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

4 - END -