



1 unwieldy and that there are significant gaps and overlaps in laws with respect to not only mail ballot elections,  
2 but also with respect to absentee and provisional voting and accessibility for elderly and disabled voters; and

3 WHEREAS, work already completed on LC 1503 lays a foundation for developing comprehensive  
4 legislation concerning mail ballot elections, absentee and provisional voting, and accessibility so that all elections  
5 could be conducted by mail; and

6 WHEREAS, despite the amount of work already completed on LC 1503, more work is required so that  
7 a technically sufficient bill can be properly considered and debated by the Legislature and so that the legislation  
8 will not only update current laws but will enhance the integrity of the process for voter registration, for absentee,  
9 provisional, and mail ballots, and for signature verification; and

10 WHEREAS, assigning this project to an interim committee or to staff during the interim would provide  
11 greater opportunity for public participation and discussion among all interested persons and stakeholders with  
12 respect to Montana's election laws, especially concerning mail ballot elections and absentee voting.

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

16 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to  
17 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to draft legislation to provide for a comprehensive  
18 update, clarification, and cleanup of current election law statutes and to require or permit all elections to be  
19 conducted by mail.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislation be drafted with input from the Office of the Secretary  
21 of State, local election administrators, interested persons and organizations, and the general public.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if assigned to staff, the draft legislation be presented to and reviewed  
23 by an appropriate interim committee designated by the Legislative Council.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the draft legislation be completed and presented to the appropriate  
25 interim committee prior to September 15, 2008.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the draft legislation, including any findings, conclusions, comments,  
27 or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 61st Legislature.

28 - END -