

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

INTRODUCED BY E. ARNTZEN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF URBAN RENEWAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES.

WHEREAS, in 1959, the Montana Legislature allowed cities and towns to establish urban renewal areas for the rehabilitation, redevelopment, and revitalization of "blighted" areas within cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, that legislation authorized cities and towns to issue revenue bonds and to take advantage of other financial resources, including federal grants, to accomplish the purposes of urban renewal areas; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Montana Legislature authorized cities and towns to use tax increment financing to assist in urban renewal area projects; and

WHEREAS, URBAN RENEWAL HAS PROVIDED A MEANS FOR PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; AND

WHEREAS, CERTAIN URBAN RENEWAL AREA PROJECTS AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL PRACTICES RELATED TO URBAN RENEWAL MAY BE INCONSISTENT WITH URBAN RENEWAL PROVISIONS; AND

WHEREAS, existing urban renewal area laws contain archaic and outdated language; and

WHEREAS, tax increment financing ~~has an effect on~~ AFFECTS THE PROPERTY TAX BASE OF other taxing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, ~~the Legislature has not conducted~~ a systematic study of urban renewal areas ~~in recent years~~ WOULD PROVIDE THE LEGISLATURE WITH THE ANALYSIS IT NEEDS TO DETERMINE WHETHER URBAN RENEWAL LAWS COULD BE IMPROVED.

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 the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- (1) review the legislative history of urban renewal laws under Title 7, chapter 15, parts 42 and 43, MCA;
- (2) evaluate the variety of funding sources available for urban renewal area projects and the

interrelationship of those funding sources;



