

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

INTRODUCED BY ERICKSON

BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO EXAMINE OPTIONS FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA TO OBTAIN WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE, INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR SELF-INSURANCE, COMBINED COVERAGE, OR MAINTAINING ITS CURRENT STRUCTURE.

WHEREAS, the State of Montana, excluding the Montana University System, spent \$17.3 million on workers' compensation premiums in 2007 and \$18 million in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Montana University System received permission in 1999 to contract independently of the state for workers' compensation insurance, which meant that it could encourage competition for its premium dollars; and

WHEREAS, currently each agency in the State of Montana has a separate policy with the State Fund and is rated separately, whether the agency is large or small and whether risk is high or low; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Finance Committee appointed a subcommittee in the 2007-2008 interim to study issues related to the State Fund, which is the sole provider of workers' compensation for the State of Montana, excluding the Montana University System.

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 options for providing workers' compensation insurance to state employees, excluding employees of the Montana University System. The examination must include the prospective financial or regulatory impacts if the state were to:

- (1) self-insure under workers' compensation plan No. 1;
- (2) OBTAIN WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE UNDER PLAN NO. 2 INSURERS;
- ~~(2)~~(3) consolidate agencies under workers' compensation plan No. 3 by using one or more combined policies; or



