

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

INTRODUCED BY C. CLARK

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE INTERIM STUDY REGARDING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE ALCOHOL CONTROL CODE IN TITLE 16, MCA, INVOLVING LICENSING FOR RETAILERS, BREWERS, WHOLESALERS, AND OTHERS, AND REQUESTING THAT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Title 16 of the Montana Code Annotated addresses the control and management of alcoholic beverages in the state and has evolved over time to address changes in licensees, new products, business relationships, and management practices; and

WHEREAS, Montana's alcoholic beverage manufacturing businesses now include brewers, distillers, and wineries who have grown to be significant economic contributors and offer various products for retail and wholesale sales; and

WHEREAS, Montana retail license holders, distributors, and manufacturers have common interests in a well-managed alcohol control system that meets the needs of Montanans and the visiting public; and

WHEREAS, there is a range of options that should be considered for revising or adding to the existing licensing and regulatory structure to meet the needs of the industry, the public, agricultural interests, tourism, and the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, a thorough interim study is needed to provide for further thoughtful, systematic, and bipartisan consideration of potential changes to Title 16, MCA, to address the above-stated 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:

- (1) conduct a comprehensive review of Title 16, MCA, and associated administrative rules relating to licensing and privileges, particularly relative to retailers, distributors, and manufacturers; and
- (2) identify recommendations to streamline, improve, and update the alcohol licensing system and



1 regulation in the state to meet the needs of the public, including safety, industry, agriculture, tourism, and the
2 state's economy.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that key members of industry within the alcohol licensing system, including
4 retailers, distributors, and manufacturers, be active participants in the study.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of agriculture industry, the tourism industry, hotel and
6 restaurant industry, economic development interests, and regulatory agencies be active participants in the study.

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

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
10 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2014.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
12 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 64th Legislature.

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