

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

2 INTRODUCED BY J. GURSKY

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

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7 WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has estimated that at least 100,000  
8 American children are exploited in prostitution each year; and9 WHEREAS, the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. Department of State found that  
10 human trafficking is a worldwide problem, involving an estimated 27 million victims; and11 WHEREAS, human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to maintain control over an  
12 individual who is being exploited for the purposes of work or prostitution; and13 WHEREAS, domestic and farm workers are vulnerable to exploitation because they often work in isolation  
14 and in jobs that are excluded from many of the labor laws protecting works in other industries; and15 WHEREAS, based on its research, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has estimated that the average  
16 age of entry into prostitution in the United States is 12 years of age; and17 WHEREAS, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has said that national studies show  
18 that at least one in three youth who run away from home will be approached to go into prostitution within 48 hours  
19 of leaving home; and20 WHEREAS, figures compiled by the Montana Board of Crime Control show that 2,671 Montana children  
21 ran away from home from 2008 through 2012, or an average of 534 per year; and22 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice recognizes that antitrafficking efforts should include federal,  
23 state, and local partnerships between law enforcement, prosecutors, and private organizations in order to identify  
24 and investigate human trafficking, prosecute the offenders, and assist the victims; and25 WHEREAS, the 63rd Legislature has taken steps to strengthen criminal laws related to sexual offenses  
26 involving children, to educate the public about human trafficking, and to support public health and welfare efforts  
27 in areas of the state where human trafficking may be more likely to occur; and

28 WHEREAS, additional steps may be necessary to strengthen Montana's response to human trafficking.

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30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to  
3 section 5-5-217, MCA, to examine human trafficking and to make recommendations related to identifying and  
4 preventing human trafficking.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:

6 (1) examine available data on the nature and extent of human trafficking in Montana;

7 (2) analyze efforts in other states to identify and prevent human trafficking, including laws related to  
8 human trafficking;

9 (3) analyze existing Montana laws to determine if they provide adequate protection against human  
10 trafficking;

11 (4) review collaborative models for identifying, protecting, and providing services to victims of human  
12 trafficking;

13 (5) review and evaluate ways in which to increase public awareness of human trafficking; and

14 (6) make recommendations on ways to improve collaboration among state and local government and  
15 businesses to identify and prevent human trafficking.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include the Department of Labor and Industry, the  
17 Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, tribal governments, and  
18 representatives of federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and advocacy  
19 organizations that work to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and Internet crimes against children.

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

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

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