

EXHIBIT 3
Unofficial Draft Copy DATE 4/1/15
As of: March 31, 2015 (7:36pm) SB LC2457

**** Joint Resolution No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the House State Administration Standing Committee

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana requesting an interim legislative study of state ethics laws, the reporting of fraud, waste, or abuse within state government, and protections for those who report violations.

WHEREAS, testimony and discussion during the House State Administration Standing Committee's consideration of Representative Kirk Wagoner's House Bill No. 607 revealed that many state employees may be reluctant to report potential ethics violations or potential instances of waste, fraud, or abuse by other state employees or by state public officials; and

WHEREAS, this reluctance may be the result of concern by state employees that they will be retaliated against for reporting potential violations; and

WHEREAS, state employees and state officials hold positions of public trust; and

WHEREAS, state employees should be protected from retaliation if they report potential violations for the public trust; and

WHEREAS, while reviewing House Bill No. 607, the committee noted that current law in these areas seems outdated, inconsistent, and unclear; and

WHEREAS, a systematic and careful interim examination of these matters is desirable to ensure sound legislative policymaking in this area.

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) review Montana laws applicable to state employees and state public officials related to ethical conduct, the reporting of potential ethics violations and possible fraud, waste, or abuse, and protections for those who report suspected violations;

(2) gather and examine laws in other states as well as information and research from experts and stakeholders in these areas;

(3) identify any gaps, inconsistencies, or weaknesses in Montana law applicable to state employees and state public officials that concern ethics violations, fraud, waste, or abuse, and reporting by state employees; and

(4) develop and analyze options to address any identified gaps, inconsistencies, or weaknesses in these laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of Commissioner of Political Practices, the state Department of Justice, the Legislative Auditor's Office, state employees, state public officials, and any other stakeholders or interested persons

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concerned with these issues be consulted and included in the interim study process.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including the findings, conclusions, comments, recommendations, or any proposed legislation by the appropriate committee, be reported to the 65th Legislature.

- END -

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