

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

INTRODUCED BY R. EHLE

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DEMENTIA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 65TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, an estimated 11% of the U.S. citizens 65 years of age or older has Alzheimer's disease; and
WHEREAS, an estimated 19,000 Montanans are believed to have Alzheimer's disease, and that number is projected to increase to 27,000 by 2025; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is one of several types of neurocognitive disorders that lead to loss of memory and impaired functioning; and

WHEREAS, studies show that about half of the individuals meeting the criteria for Alzheimer's disease and other types of neurocognitive disorders are not diagnosed by a physician; and

WHEREAS, neurocognitive disorders, also commonly known as dementia, can cause changes in an individual's behavior that can result in contact with the law enforcement or mental health systems; and

WHEREAS, many states have developed state plans for Alzheimer's disease, and Montana is currently in the process of developing a state plan; and

WHEREAS, nursing homes, assisted living centers, and hospitals are serving some individuals with dementia and are likely to see increased numbers of individuals with dementia in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health and Human Services operates public institutions that care for individuals suffering from a combination of dementia and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, as inmates in Montana's correctional facilities age, those facilities may see increased numbers of inmates suffering from dementia.

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, to study the needs of individuals with dementia and the services available to those



1 individuals to determine if:

2 (1) changes to the current system of facilities or services are needed to accommodate the number of
3 Montanans with dementia; and

4 (2) gaps in the current system of services are resulting in the placement of individuals with dementia in
5 state institutional settings.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study review:

7 (1) the number of individuals with dementia served by state-operated facilities, by privately operated
8 facilities, and through the Medicaid home and community-based services waiver operated by the Senior and
9 Long-Term Care Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services;

10 (2) the cost of providing services to individuals with dementia in state-operated facilities, privately
11 operated facilities, and in the home;

12 (3) whether the available services meet the needs of individuals with dementia;

13 (4) whether services are available to allow individuals with dementia to remain in their homes and, if not,
14 the barriers that exist to making those services available;

15 (5) the projected long-term needs for individuals with dementia and the types of facilities or services that
16 may be needed to meet those needs;

17 (6) alternative approaches to providing the services that may improve the quality of care or provide care
18 in a less restrictive environment;

19 (7) any available information about the number of individuals with dementia who come into contact with
20 local law enforcement agencies and the results of those interactions; and

21 (8) other items as identified by the interim committee.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include a review of the work being undertaken to develop
23 a Montana state plan for Alzheimer's disease.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve the participation of the Department of Public Health
25 and Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the Montana Health Care Association, local law
26 enforcement agencies, providers of community-based services to individuals with dementia, advocates for
27 individuals with dementia, and other interested parties.

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,

1 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 65th Legislature.

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