

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

2 INTRODUCED BY J. PRICE

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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 TO DETERMINE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY AND
6 ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF AN ALUMINUM CAN DEPOSIT PROGRAM FOR CRAFT BREWERIES IN
7 MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH
8 LEGISLATURE.

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10 WHEREAS, Article IX, section 1(1), of the Montana Constitution declares that "The state and each person
11 shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Article IX, section 1(2), declares that "The legislature shall provide for the administration and
14 enforcement of this duty"; and

15 WHEREAS, Article IX, section 1(3), declares that "The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for
16 the protection of the environment life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent
17 unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources"; and

18 WHEREAS, recycling reduces pollution, conserves natural resources, and reduces greenhouse gas
19 emissions such as methane gas, a major contributor to climate change, from landfill waste sites; and

20 WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality reported an increase in waste diversion
21 rates from 15% in 2003 to 21.9% in 2012; and

22 WHEREAS, the Montana Integrated Waste Management Act establishes solid waste reduction goals and
23 targets and provides that it is "the goal of the state to reduce, through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and
24 composting, the amount of solid waste that is generated by households, businesses, and governments and that
25 is either disposed of in landfills or burned in an incinerator"; and

26 WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality reported that recycling results in
27 economic growth, income growth, net job increases, long-term investment, energy savings, waste reduction,
28 lower production costs for many industries, and an extension of landfill life, and container deposit programs are
29 a proven, sustainable method of capturing beverage cans from recycling; and

30 WHEREAS, states that have passed legislation creating deposit programs have the highest aluminum

1 can recycling rates, on average 74% or higher, while the recycling rate in nondeposit states is around 38%; and

2 WHEREAS, recycled aluminum saves 95% of energy in comparison to processing of virgin aluminum;

3 and

4 WHEREAS, Montana craft breweries are increasingly using aluminum cans.

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

7 STATE OF MONTANA:

8 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to

9 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the economic feasibility and environmental

10 benefits of an aluminum can deposit program for craft breweries in Montana.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study examine how an aluminum can refundable deposit program

12 paid for by the consumer would further diversion and recycling goals of the Montana Integrated Waste

13 Management Act, including assessment of:

14 (1) commodity resale value for aluminum cans when collected;

15 (2) potential revenue streams from uncollected deposits to pay for kiosk drop-off locations and expansion

16 of multipurpose curbside recycling bins;

17 (3) aluminum industry support;

18 (4) Montana craft brewery support;

19 (5) whether a state agency or a private organization is best situated to oversee uncollected deposits;

20 (6) the possibility of reducing litter on Montana roadways, parks, and municipalities; and

21 (7) the feasibility of initiating a pilot program that utilizes existing aluminum can recycling systems.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be

23 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review

25 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2018.

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

27 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 66th Legislature.

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