

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY E. HILL SMITH

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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 ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, recreational opportunities abound on Montana's 94 million acres, and outdoor recreation is core to Montana's outdoor heritage; and

WHEREAS, Montana's recreation economy, fueled by its residents and the more than 10 million visitors to the state each year, is diverse and far-reaching; and

WHEREAS, Montana's outdoor recreation industry is a significant and growing part of the state's economy, contributing to well-paying jobs and local and state tax bases; and

WHEREAS, a vibrant future for outdoor recreation is critical to the well-being of Montana's citizens and communities.

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 study and make recommendations regarding:

- (1) the economic benefits of recreational lands and waters in Montana, including clean water, wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, and recreational experiences;
- (2) the economic contributions of outdoor recreation in Montana, including economic impacts by demography and recreational activity and economic impacts on public and private lands by type and location;
- (3) the number of days per year that the average Montanan participates in outdoor recreation;
- (4) how outdoor recreation-related expenditures trickle down through the state's economy and the distribution of outdoor recreation economic activity at the local and regional level;
- (5) the impacts of development and population growth on recreation providers and communities in Montana; and
- (6) sustaining and growing Montana's recreation economy, including recommendations for coordinated

1 marketing and messaging with community, regional, state, and tribal tourism information providers and local
2 lodging associations and chambers of commerce.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the results of the study be delineated at the state and county level,
4 as available.

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

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
8 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2018.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
10 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 66th Legislature.

11 - END -