

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 62
INTRODUCED BY L. SHELDON-GALLOWAY

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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 REVIEW THE VISITATION RIGHTS OF NONCUSTODIAL
6 PARENTS FOLLOWING PARENTING PLANS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE
7 REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

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9 WHEREAS, a growing number of noncustodial parents are unable to be involved in their children's lives,
10 including those paying child support and following approved parenting plans; and

11 WHEREAS, statistics show that a child has a higher chance of success in life when both parents are
12 involved in the child's life; and

13 WHEREAS, Montanans should take all possible steps to improve the quality of life, to ensure equality
14 of opportunity, and to secure the blessings of liberty, keeping in mind the best interests of the child; and

15 WHEREAS, a study of the gap between Montana laws and court rulings and the reality of the manner
16 in which parenting plans are carried out and enforced may help unite children with their parents and heal the
17 bonds that break when parents separate in traditional and nontraditional families.

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19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 STATE OF MONTANA:

21 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
22 section 5-5-217, MCA, to review the laws, practices, and policies that impact the visitation rights of noncustodial
23 parents.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve representatives of the Department of Public Health
25 and Human Services, the Montana Department of Justice, the Montana County Attorneys Association, the judicial
26 system, and individuals affected by laws, policies, and practices related to child support and visitation.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
28 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
30 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 67th Legislature.

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