

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF FOOD, FOOD PROCESSING, AND FOOD SAFETY  
6 REGULATIONS.

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8 WHEREAS, the state of Montana and the federal government share food, food processing, and food  
9 safety duties between various agencies, such as between the United States Department of Agriculture, the  
10 United States Food and Drug Administration, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the Montana Department  
11 of Public Health and Human Services, the Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau, and the Montana  
12 Department of Livestock; and

13 WHEREAS, American farmers and ranchers are concerned that food, food processing, and food safety  
14 regulations must also keep pace with changes in food production, processing, and marketing, production  
15 advances, distribution methods, and the growing volume of imports.

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

19 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory  
20 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to review food, food  
21 processing, and food safety regulations and oversight.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the designated committee examine the regulatory framework for  
23 food, food processing, and food safety within the various state and local government agencies, including rules  
24 and regulations for:

25 (1) food labeling and adulterated and misbranded food under the Montana Food, Drug, and Cosmetic  
26 Act in Title 50, chapter 31;

27 (2) retail food establishments, temporary food establishments, farmer's markets, and other entities  
28 under Title 50, chapter 50, and Title 50, chapter 51;

- 1 (3) wholesale food establishments under Title 50, chapter 57; and
- 2 (4) any other food rules and regulations enforced by state and local governments.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the designated committee examine the regulatory framework for  
4 food, food processing, and food safety within the Department of Livestock, including rules and regulations for:

- 5 (1) licensing of meatpackers;
- 6 (2) meat inspections; and
- 7 (3) other agency duties, including handling slaughter data, food safety assessments, product  
8 labelling, and meat retailer compliance.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study consider:

- 10 (1) relevant, applicable federal laws, such as the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Fair  
11 Packaging and Labeling Act, Meat Inspection Act, Poultry Products Inspection Act, and Humane Methods of  
12 Slaughter Act;
- 13 (2) reports and analyses related to state and federal regulatory procedures;
- 14 (3) input from retail food establishments, meatpackers, consumers, meat inspectors, public health  
15 officials, food producers, and others affected by food and food safety; and
- 16 (4) any other relevant information.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the designated committee assess the financial and administrative  
18 efficiencies of moving food, food processing, and food safety oversight from the Department of Public Health  
19 and Human Services, the Department of Livestock, and other agencies to the Department of Agriculture.

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

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
23 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2022.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
25 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 68th Legislature.

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