

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 THE STATE FLAG.

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7 WHEREAS, Montana's current state flag, which is the great seal of the State of Montana centered on a
8 dark blue background, was adopted in 1905 by the 9th Legislature based on the flag borne by the 1st Montana
9 Infantry in the Spanish-American War; and

10 WHEREAS, the Legislature has made two changes to the flag since then, adding "MONTANA" in gold
11 letters above the seal in 1981 and requiring "MONTANA" to be spelled with Helvetica bold font in 1985; and

12 WHEREAS, 25 state flags in the United States include either the state's coat of arms or the seal of the
13 state; and

14 WHEREAS, 15 of these flags have the state's coat of arms or the seal on a blue background, which
15 makes them difficult to distinguish; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2001, the North American Vexillological Association, an organization devoted to the
17 study of flags, ranked Montana's flag as the third worst flag design of all the state and provincial flags in the
18 United States and Canada; and

19 WHEREAS, the state seal of Montana is difficult for school children to draw; and

20 WHEREAS, Montana has countless natural resources, geologic wonders, diverse landscapes, and
21 robust communities, including eight tribal nations, from which to garner ideas for a new state flag; and

22 WHEREAS, Montanans pride themselves on their independent spirit, individuality, and innovation; and

23 WHEREAS, we should project that spirit with a unique flag design that unforgettably represents
24 Montana.

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

28 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory

1 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

2 (1) solicit input from a variety of stakeholders, including the eight federally recognized tribal
3 governments in Montana, on the future of Montana's state flag; and

4 (2) make a recommendation on whether a new state flag should be developed and, if so, what
5 process should be used to determine the design and receive public input on it.

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

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

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

12 - END -