

## 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN

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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 OF FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY;  
6 AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 69TH  
7 LEGISLATURE.  
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9 WHEREAS, food security is vital to our state and nation; and

10 WHEREAS, agriculture is Montana's top production industry and comprises a central and vital  
11 component of this state's economy; and

12 WHEREAS, the prosperity of Montana's agricultural commodities fuels the prosperity of the state; and

13 WHEREAS, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations states that "food security  
14 exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious  
15 food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life"; and

16 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely stressed underlying issues of food access and food  
17 distribution in the state; and

18 WHEREAS, Montana's agricultural economy has grown in response to demand for more diverse crops,  
19 such as pulse crops and other specialty crops; and

20 WHEREAS, adding value to Montana-grown food and crops is essential to expanding the state's  
21 economy and increasing the wealth of its citizens; and

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of growing and adding value to local products  
23 and maintaining markets for the state's agricultural commodities while also providing food security for its  
24 citizens; and

25 WHEREAS, spending on agriculture and food systems directly supports public health, local economies,  
26 and independent and historically marginalized farmers and ranchers.

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

1 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory  
3 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine issues related to  
4 the production of food and the consumption of food in the state.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assigned committee examine:

6 (1) the availability of food in the state;

7 (2) the production of food;

8 (3) the access to food by individuals or households;

9 (4) opportunities to add value in all sectors of agricultural production;

10 (5) existing programs and initiatives focused on food security and agricultural prosperity, including  
11 programs funded with federal money or donations, such as the Farmers to Families Food Box Program;

12 (6) issues, challenges, and opportunities related to locally grown, accessed, processed, and  
13 distributed food;

14 (7) the Made in Montana and Grown in Montana products program; and

15 (8) challenges to food security, such as soil health and pollinator decline.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the examination include relevant agencies and stakeholders,  
17 including those with expertise in agricultural production, livestock production, community food bank operations,  
18 the science of nutrition, and local food growing and retailing.

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
22 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
24 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.

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