

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY J. WARD

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT TELECOMMUTING, ALSO KNOWN AS "TELEWORK", WITHIN BRANCH AGENCIES BY IDENTIFYING FUNCTIONS THAT MAY BE PERFORMED BY EMPLOYEES WHO TELEWORK, ADOPTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR TELEWORK, AND IMPLEMENTING THOSE POLICIES.

WHEREAS, one of the most important issues to the citizens of Montana is the energy issue in all its facets; and

WHEREAS, telecommuting, also known as "telework", keeps more vehicles parked and reduces energy waste, foreign oil dependence, and even terrorist funding; and

WHEREAS, telework reduces stress and wasted time behind the wheel and improves highway safety by reducing traffic; and

WHEREAS, telework has been shown to increase employee productivity, improve retention, and bring efficiency to the use of employer assets; and

WHEREAS, telework reduces the number of children without parents at home; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 56, Laws of 2005, authorized and directed the Department of Administration to adopt policies to encourage agencies to implement telework for agency employees when in the state's best interest.

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

That the Executive and Judicial Branches of the government of the State of Montana be urged to:

(1) assess each function within each branch agency and identify which functions could be performed through telework;

(2) develop and adopt policies and procedures necessary to implement telework for the identified functions; and

(3) implement telework for the identified functions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State provide a copy of this resolution to the

Governor and the Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

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