

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35
INTRODUCED BY B. EBINGER

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RESOLVING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE PRIORITIZE A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS' WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND THAT THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR PRESENT FINDINGS FROM THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION, TO THE 61ST LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the Good Neighbor Policy set out in section 23-1-126, MCA, requires the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to seek a goal of no impact upon adjoining private and public lands by preventing impact on those adjoining lands from noxious weeds, trespass, litter, noise and light pollution, streambank erosion, and loss of privacy; and

WHEREAS, section 23-1-127, MCA, requires implementation of the Good Neighbor Policy in regard to state parks and fishing access sites and requires that priority be given to maintenance of existing facilities, including weed control, rather than capital development; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Division of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has received substantial increases in funding through license plate fees; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has proposed an increase of \$15 million in funding for the purchase of more land for state parks and fishing access sites without reference to maintenance.

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

That the Legislative Audit Committee prioritize a performance audit of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' weed management program and that, as part of the performance audit, the Legislative Auditor shall:

(1) evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the department's weed management program and program compliance with applicable state weed laws, particularly sections 23-1-126 and 23-1-127, MCA;

(2) present findings from the performance audit and any recommendations for proposed legislation or restrictions on the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' budget to the 61st Legislature; and

(3) present findings from the performance audit in a readily accessible format for use by the Legislature and any interested parties.

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