

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 45
INTRODUCED BY B. THOMAS

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO IDENTIFY INADEQUACIES IN AND PROPOSE OPTIONS TO IMPROVE STATE SYSTEMS THAT DO NOT ALLOW FOR THE ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT SPELLING AND USE OF EVERY CITIZEN'S FULL LEGAL NAME; REQUESTING THAT THE STUDY ENGAGE THE EXPERTISE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE STUDY'S FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, Montana residents periodically experience delays or difficulties in conducting their business or personal affairs if there is a discrepancy between the resident's name as presented on a state-issued document and the name as it appears on other identification or business documents that a resident may be asked to present, particularly regarding the proper or customary use of spacing, uppercase and lowercase letters, apostrophes, hyphens, and other symbols; and

WHEREAS, name formats on some state-issued documents may be constrained because of limitations in the information technology or other systems used by state agencies or because of external requirements arising from interfaces between state information technology systems and information technology systems maintained by other governmental entities or third parties.

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

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to identify issues and develop options to ensure that whenever state agency information technology systems are upgraded or replaced or whenever business processes for issuing state-authorized driver's licenses, identification cards, permits, certificates, or other similar credentials specific to an individual person are reviewed and revised, state agencies use "best practices" and alternatives that record or present a person's full legal name in a consistent format or manner that includes such typographical characters as apostrophes, hyphens, and other symbols as part of the person's name and that uses customary style conventions, such as uppercase and lowercase lettering, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee work closely with the Department of Administration,

particularly the Information Technology Services Division, to identify the cost-effective application of technology in other public jurisdictions and the private sector that potentially is adaptable for use by the state to address the challenges posed by inadequate or antiquated technology currently used by the state.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2008.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 61st Legislature.

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