SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

INTRODUCED BY J. BLACK

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT GRANT PROGRAM AND THE STATUTORY CRITERIA USED TO SCORE AND RANK PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT AWARDS.

WHEREAS, the Treasure State Endowment program helps local governments fund infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, there are legitimate concerns and questions about the seven criteria used to prioritize project funding for applicants outlined in section 90-6-710, MCA; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to review the process for prioritizing and rating Treasure State Endowment grant applications.

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 review the seven statutory criteria used to prioritize Treasure State Endowment grant applications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any study involve participation of representatives of Montana cities, towns, and counties, the Department of Commerce, and any other stakeholders in the Treasure State Endowment grant program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee recommend changes in the seven statutory criteria to eliminate any inequities in the review and prioritization of projects.

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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