

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14
INTRODUCED BY C. LARSEN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF STATE AGENCIES DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING JOINT LABORATORY FACILITIES FOR TESTING RELATED TO WILDLIFE, LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURE, AND PUBLIC HEALTH; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, several state agencies maintain separate laboratories for testing related to wildlife, livestock, agriculture, and public health; and

WHEREAS, some state laboratories face space and budget constraints; and

WHEREAS, potential efficiencies could exist to encourage development and maintenance of shared laboratory facilities; and

WHEREAS, the state could save money if existing laboratories could be consolidated.

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 staff resources to:

- (1) conduct a review of existing laboratory facilities operated by the state of Montana;
- (2) identify areas of potential overlap or similarity of testing procedures among state laboratories conducting testing related to wildlife, livestock, agriculture, and public health;
- (3) explore the possibility of consolidating laboratories, as well as the benefits and drawbacks of consolidation;
- (4) identify potential savings to the state if two or more laboratories could be consolidated into a shared laboratory; and
- (5) examine potential sharing arrangements that could be made between state agencies that wish to or should share laboratory space.

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, 2010.

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 62nd Legislature.

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