

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

INTRODUCED BY D. COFFIN

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF STUDENT-FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP IN THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, there is nearly universal agreement among economists that education, research and development, and infrastructure are the key components for the future success of the Montana state and American 21st century economies; and

WHEREAS, research, scholarship, and education have been inherently linked as embedded components in the mission of universities for millennia and remain so in the current operations of all accredited American research universities, including the Montana University System campuses; and

WHEREAS, faculty-student research and scholarship are the equivalent of on-the-job training for university and college faculty and are the gateway to learning creativity, innovation, ingenuity, and problem solving for students; and

WHEREAS, research and scholarship are at least one-third of the defined duties for Montana university faculty according to the university mission and the personnel evaluation criteria for faculty; and

WHEREAS, research and scholarship within the Montana University system are responsible for greater than \$300 million in economic activity and thousands of jobs in the current Montana economy; and

WHEREAS, university-based research and development are the foundation for entrepreneurial growth and intellectual property development in local and national economies; and

WHEREAS, current investment in the Montana research and development infrastructure is minimal and, therefore, research and development represents a major potential growth area in the future Montana economy; and

WHEREAS, research and scholarly activity are essential components in the curricula for science, technology, engineering, mathematics, natural resource and alternative energy development, agriculture, and health professions education.

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



1 STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to  
3 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the function of Montana's university system as  
4 it relates to student-faculty research and scholarly activity.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include:

6 (1) defining the proper and essential role for student-faculty research and scholarship in the Montana  
7 University System mission and curriculum;

8 (2) current assessment of and future planning for student-faculty research and scholarship in the  
9 operational plan for the Montana University System as it relates to educational quality, performance, and national  
10 competitiveness;

11 (3) the optimal means to fund, finance, and budget for student-faculty research and scholarship in the  
12 Montana University System;

13 (4) development of uniform Montana University System intellectual property rights policies and targeted  
14 research funding to stimulate faculty innovation and productivity;

15 (5) defining the best means for intellectual interaction and technology transfer between Montana  
16 University System faculty and the private sector for commercialization and economic development; and

17 (6) any other related matter that the committee considers necessary.

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

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
21 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2014.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
23 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 64th Legislature.

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