

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

INTRODUCED BY ARNTZEN, ARTHUN, BRENDEN, D. BROWN, BUTTREY, HAMLETT, L. JONES,
ROSENDALE, SONJU, TAYLOR, THOMAS, TUTVEDT, WEBB

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE TRANSPORTING OF OVERSIZE LOADS THROUGH
MONTANA.

WHEREAS, there are many compelling reasons to establish a predictable, timely, and cost-effective
process that will allow numerous manufacturing firms, contractors, motor carriers, and others involved in
commerce, both within and outside the state of Montana, to efficiently and in a cost-effective manner transport
oversize and other loads through Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to fostering the economic activity generated by transporting the
loads, with substantial benefits accruing to Montana workers, small businesses, and local communities; and

WHEREAS, there are compelling reasons to reduce project costs and expedite the movement of people
and goods by eliminating delays, reducing regulatory burdens, improving agencies' work practices, lowering
costs, and accelerating completion of transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, Montana has an obligation to improve its portion and the whole of the national freight
network, strengthen the ability of communities to access national and international trade markets, and support
economic development; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with other states and federal transportation authorities, Montana is committed
to fostering actions that do not result in significant environmental impacts and, therefore, expediting the review
processes and project delivery in furtherance of the objectives envisioned by the Moving Ahead for Progress in
the 21st Century Act, Public Law 112-141, commonly referred to as MAP-21.

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, to identify:

- (1) any impediments in Montana law that preclude or discourage transporting oversize loads through the



1 state; and

2 (2) options to remove or mitigate the impediments to efficiently and in a cost-effective manner transport
3 oversize and other loads through Montana.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee look to other states or Canadian provinces for
5 legislative methods or means enacted to foster the transport of oversize loads through various public jurisdictions,
6 including by establishing or authorizing the establishment of commerce corridors.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate and House of Representatives request that the Montana
8 Department of Transportation, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, local governments, appropriate
9 highway user groups and, to the extent possible, U.S. Department of Transportation officials make their
10 respective staffs, information, and expertise available to the committee to advance the purposes of the study.

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

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

15 - END -