

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

2 INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE STUDY THE BIOLOGICAL,
6 SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF GRAY WOLF RECOVERY IN MONTANA.

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8 WHEREAS, Northern Rocky Mountain or gray wolf recovery began in Montana in the 1980s with natural
9 dispersers from Canada; and

10 WHEREAS, Congress directed enactment of a final rule removing the gray wolf from endangered species
11 protection in 2011; and

12 WHEREAS, the state of Montana subsequently assumed management of gray wolves from the federal
13 government in 2011; and

14 WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks estimated that at least 625 gray wolves
15 were in the state in 2012; and

16 WHEREAS, gray wolf recovery has generated biological, economic, and social effects on the animal life,
17 businesses, institutions, and people of Montana.

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

21 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
22 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

23 (1) assess the biological effects of gray wolf recovery in Montana, including:

24 (a) population estimates, counting methodology, pack locations, and other attributes of the gray wolf
25 population;

26 (b) status of other affected wildlife and game; and

27 (c) ecological impacts;

28 (2) evaluate the economic effects of gray wolf recovery in Montana, including the effects on:

29 (a) tourism, hunting, and wildlife watching related to gray wolves;

30 (b) livestock depredations, diminished livestock health, and other gray wolf-related effects to

- 1 stockgrowers and those living in the wildland-urban interface; and
2 (c) active management of gray wolves by the state of Montana and how management of gray wolves
3 aims to reduce negative economic impacts and increase positive economic impacts; and
4 (3) study the social effects of gray wolf recovery in Montana, including:
5 (a) state and federal legislation, administrative rules, relevant court decisions, and management plans
6 resulting from gray wolf recovery;
7 (b) public outreach efforts related to gray wolf issues;
8 (c) a summary of gray wolf management plans from adjoining states, Indian tribes, and the Great Lakes
9 states of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee consider the knowledge and advice of:

- 11 (1) state, federal, and tribal wildlife officials;
12 (2) state, federal, and local government officials;
13 (3) stockgrowers, ranchers, tourism-based operators, and other business owners;
14 (4) hunting and wildlife advocacy groups; and
15 (5) other agencies and organizations considered appropriate by the committee.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study identify areas for future legislative action, if needed.

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

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
22 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 64th Legislature, the Governor,
23 and Montana's Congressional Delegation.

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