

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

INTRODUCED BY E. ARNTZEN

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS STANDING

COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS TO DETERMINE IF DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL OR DETRIMENTAL TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR TO MEMBERS OF THE REGULATED PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

WHEREAS, professional and occupational licensing boards prior to 2001 had more autonomy than they do now, with some of the boards participating in the hiring of their own executive staff; and

WHEREAS, changes to licensing boards have taken place at least twice since 2001 when the Department of Labor and Industry became the department to which professional and occupational licensing boards were attached for administrative purposes and many of these organizational changes have been undertaken to improve efficiency and uniformity among the boards; and

WHEREAS, in the 63rd Legislature at least two professions have sought to declare their independence from general oversight and budgetary control by the Department of Labor and Industry with indications that the uniformity and efficiency have been detrimental to their ability to govern their professions and occupations and with concerns raised about the reorganizations expanding the government bureaucracy or cross-subsidization among boards at greater costs to some boards and their licensees than others.

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 examine whether:

- (1) reorganizations of professional and occupational licensing boards have decreased the ability of the boards to respond to and serve their licensees, set policy, and respond to public complaints and concerns;



