

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

INTRODUCED BY R. RIPLEY

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS STANDING COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOMMENDING INTERIM MONITORING ACTIVITIES BY LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE AND INTERIM COMMITTEES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS STANDING COMMITTEES.

WHEREAS, appropriations power is vested in the Legislature by the Montana Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the act of appropriating funds is one of the most significant expressions of legislative policy;

and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Legislature evaluated critical goals for agency operations as part of the appropriations process; and

WHEREAS, interim legislative committees are charged with program evaluation and monitoring functions for specific state agencies; and

WHEREAS, performance monitoring has the potential to communicate what is received in return for the investment of tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, through performance monitoring, both agency personnel and policymakers may gain understanding of program effectiveness instead of focusing on the preservation of existing programs and associated spending levels; and

WHEREAS, performance monitoring helps explain the results of previous legislative funding decisions and aids in priority setting; and

WHEREAS, performance monitoring helps estimate and justify the potential consequences of new funding decisions; and

WHEREAS, regular performance monitoring before and during budget deliberations encourages deeper legislative understanding of agency activities and may even garner support for them; and

WHEREAS, effective performance monitoring is a partnership between the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative Branches of state government.



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

3 That the Legislative Finance Committee, in cooperation with the Legislative Council, be requested to  
4 recommend to appropriate administrative or interim committees, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, interim  
5 monitoring activities as recommended by the Joint Subcommittees on Appropriations.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
7 the Judicial Branch requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor the Court Help Program, including  
8 reporting on statistics that shows the incomes of users of the program and quantifiable impacts of the program  
9 on court efficiencies.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
11 the Department of Corrections requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor the costs and usage of  
12 the contract with the Department of Public Health and Human Services for housing inmates at the Montana  
13 Mental Health Nursing Care Center in Lewistown.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
15 the Department of Corrections requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor the average daily  
16 population of offenders under the supervision of the Department.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
18 the Office of State Public Defender requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor staff turnover,  
19 including trends and statistics of staff turnover and stated reasons for leaving employment with the Office.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
21 the Office of State Public Defender requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor expenditure of  
22 funding provided for death penalty defense, including reporting on cost, payment rates, hours billed, and names  
23 of service providers of contracted legal representation.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
25 the Department of Justice requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor trends on enforcing the  
26 provisions of section 61-3-701, MCA.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
28 the Department of Administration, State Accounting Division, requests that the Legislative Finance Committee  
29 monitor the lowering of fees for the Local Government Audit and Reporting Program. This includes monitoring  
30 the reduction of excess fund balance in the related proprietary fund to determine what fees are commensurate

1 with the costs of operating the program. The Legislative Fiscal Division shall prepare a report on the progress  
2 of the program to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government of the 2015 Legislature.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
4 the State Information Technology Services Division requests that the Energy and Telecommunications Interim  
5 Committee monitor its progress in development of the FirstNet Planning Grant.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
7 the Commissioner of Political Practices requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor the impact of  
8 hiring agency legal counsel, including increases in the number of investigation and decisions issued, reductions  
9 in the time to resolve complaints, and reductions in the time to provide decisions. The Legislative Fiscal Division  
10 shall prepare a report on the increases and reductions to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on General  
11 Government of the 2015 Legislature.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
13 the Department of Military Affairs requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor the ChalleNGe  
14 Program's actions to address its recruitment and retention challenges. The Legislative Fiscal Division shall  
15 prepare a report on the progress to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government of the 2015  
16 Legislature.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Joint Subcommittees' recommendation for interim monitoring of  
18 the Department of Public Health and Human Services requests that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor  
19 the outcomes of the Medicaid Incentive Grant.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
21 requirements, be concluded prior to October 1, 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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