

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

INTRODUCED BY J. TAYLOR

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING A STUDY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OFFERED BY EACH STATE AGENCY ALONG WITH PROGRAM COSTS, INTERACTIONS, AND BENEFICIARIES; AND REQUIRING A FINAL REPORT ON THE STUDY FINDINGS TO THE 65TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, economic development efforts can build the economic capacity of an area and improve the area's economic future and the quality of life for all by attracting, supporting, and retaining public and private interests to work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation; and

WHEREAS, applicants benefit from targeted economic development assistance as well as referrals to agencies and programs that best suit their needs and goals, and people knowledgeable about the programs offered in state agencies could best direct applicants to the most appropriate programs; and

WHEREAS, more than 80% of Montana businesses are considered small businesses, and many of these businesses benefited from startup financial assistance and advice available through various state agencies or advisory councils; and

WHEREAS, Montana uses a one-stop service approach to streamline applications for many businesses, but a study will be beneficial in determining whether the one-stop service might be expanded and whether improved references and recommendations about each agency's programs may simplify a startup business's experiences; and

WHEREAS, Montana welcomes larger businesses and would benefit from a study of whether financial assistance programs through various state agencies are equally available to large and to small businesses; and

WHEREAS, learning whether duplications or gaps exist in services may help the Legislature more appropriately determine how funding can best encourage Montana business success and support Montana workers and job creation in the future.

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



1 section 5-5-217, MCA, to examine:

2 (1) economic development programs provided by each state agency, as defined in 2-8-102, MCA,
3 including:

4 (a) sources of funds;

5 (b) expenditures both to applicants and for internal program costs;

6 (c) the types of applicants benefiting from the programs; and

7 (d) the terms of contracts, including whether provisions allow for money to be returned if beneficiaries
8 fail to carry out the terms of their contracts;

9 (2) interactions with other state agencies involving applicants for economic development assistance to
10 determine if the applicants are apprised of a full range of services available to them through the state agencies;

11 (3) funding sources within all state agencies that may be considered economic development programs
12 and whether these funding sources are used in conjunction with one another or are duplications; and

13 (4) the particular knowledge and economic development offerings from each agency and the
14 constituency that the programs serve.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
16 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2016.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
18 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 65th Legislature.

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