

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

INTRODUCED BY J. FLEMING

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO EXAMINE THE THREAT OF PLANT PESTS TO AGRICULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE ECONOMY OF MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, plant pests, or invasive pests, are nonnative species whose introduction can cause damage to the economy, natural resources, and human health; and

WHEREAS, the federal Plant Protection Act and the Plant Protection Quarantine Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide safeguards against plant pests through program research and regulation; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Quarantine and Pest Management Act allows the Montana Department of Agriculture to adopt rules related to quarantines, investigations of plant pests, control of plant pests, and other measures; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Agriculture has established quarantines to protect against European pine shoot moth, late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*), and Japanese beetle; and

WHEREAS, the state must be prepared for future threats, such as emerald ash borer or Asian longhorn beetles in urban forests or karnal bunt or terrestrial snails in wheat fields; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature must ensure the state and its agencies are prepared to respond to current and future plant pests.

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 review the state's preparedness for plant pests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study consider:

- (1) any relevant reports, research, or analysis;
- (2) input from state and federal agencies, private interests, and the general public; and
- (3) how other regional states handle plant pests.

