

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 42

INTRODUCED BY N. MCCONNELL

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF BROADBAND IN MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, coordination and expansion of broadband can help drive investment in Montana communities; and

WHEREAS, increasing the extent and availability of broadband infrastructure throughout the state facilitates the provision of internet access to citizens, farms, businesses, and communities at speeds that promote economic development, employment, enhanced access to goods and services, increased educational and training opportunities, faster access to government services and health care, and improved overall information and community access.

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:

- (1) study the status of broadband in Montana;
- (2) analyze local, state, and federal legal and regulatory environments that may impact broadband deployment in Montana;
- (3) review the benefits of increased broadband in specific sectors and identify opportunities for funding, including but not limited to grants and subsidies, policy changes, and partnerships to promote broadband; and
- (4) recommend:
  - (a) how Montana should and can advocate for change where necessary to enhance statewide broadband opportunities; and
  - (b) legislative policy that promotes public-private partnerships for broadband deployment to meet agreed-upon service levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be



1 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
3 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2018.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
5 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 66th Legislature.

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