

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

INTRODUCED BY S. MORIGEAU

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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 HOMELESSNESS IN MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the 2016 "point-in-time" survey of homeless Montanans showed that nearly 1,500 Montanans were without a home, including nearly 670 people who were without any type of shelter; and

WHEREAS, the survey showed that 337 children and 165 veterans were among those who were homeless; and

WHEREAS, homeless individuals often cycle in and out of Montana's social service and correctional systems at both the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, many local communities in Montana are seeking ways to reduce homelessness; and

WHEREAS, numerous factors lead to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, a focus on addressing the root causes of homelessness could lead to solutions that lead to permanent housing for many Montanans and that reduce the need for other services from state and local governments.

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, to examine homelessness in Montana and potential solutions to reducing homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study review:

- (1) the demographics of the homeless population in Montana;
- (2) the factors that contribute to temporary and chronic homelessness;
- (3) the programs and other resources currently available in Montana to assist people with temporary and permanent housing;
- (4) efforts undertaken in Montana communities and in other states to reduce homelessness; and
- (5) the barriers that exist to reducing the number of people living in homelessness.



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study determine what steps, if any, could be taken at the local,
2 state, and federal levels to alleviate barriers to reducing the number of homeless Montanans.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include participation by representatives of the Department
4 of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Commerce, local government, housing interests, and
5 statewide and local entities that serve the homeless population or work to reduce homelessness.

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

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

10 - END -