65th Legislature HJ0037.01

1	HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37
2	INTRODUCED BY J. FLEMING
3	
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO EXAMINE THE THREAT OF PLANT PESTS TO
6	AGRICULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE ECONOMY OF MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE
7	FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.
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9	WHEREAS, plant pests, or invasive pests, are nonnative species whose introduction can cause damage
10	to the economy, natural resources, and human health; and
11	WHEREAS, the federal Plant Protection Act and the Plant Protection Quarantine Program of the U.S.
12	Department of Agriculture provide safeguards against plant pests through program research and regulation; and
13	WHEREAS, the Montana Quarantine and Pest Management Act allows the Montana Department of
14	Agriculture to adopt rules related to quarantines, investigations of plant pests, control of plant pests, and other
15	measures; and
16	WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Agriculture has established quarantines to protect against
17	European pine shoot moth, late blight (Phytophthora infestans), and Japanese beetle; and
18	WHEREAS, the state must be prepared for future threats, such as emerald ash borer or Asian longhorn
19	beetles in urban forests or karnal bunt or terrestrial snails in wheat fields; and
20	WHEREAS, the Legislature must ensure the state and its agencies are prepared to respond to current
21	and future plant pests.
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23	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
24	STATE OF MONTANA:
25	That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
26	section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to review the state's preparedness for plant pests.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study consider:
28	(1) any relevant reports, research, or analysis;
29	(2) input from state and federal agencies, private interests, and the general public; and
30	(3) how other regional states handle plant pests.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

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

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

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