

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN

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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 WAYS TO IMPROVE PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, passenger rail and bus services provide mobility for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, students, tourists, and businesspeople; and

WHEREAS, some communities in Montana are poorly served by public transportation, and options for passenger transportation services in Montana continue to decline; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak's North Coast Hiawatha ceased operation through southern Montana in 1979, and transportation to and from the major population centers of southern Montana would be greatly enhanced by passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS, additional passenger transportation services will increase passenger transportation-related employment because of the need for upgraded infrastructure and operating personnel; and

WHEREAS, tourism is Montana's second-largest industry and would be enhanced by improved passenger transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the Empire Builder is one of the most popular long-distance passenger trains in the United States, and is greatly needed for the citizens of Montana's Hi-Line who have limited public transportation options, but is challenged by lack of rail capacity causing frequent delays; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no board or commission within the state of Montana that is charged with the sole responsibility of overseeing and advocating for passenger transportation services, including passenger rail and passenger bus services.

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 investigate ways to improve passenger transportation



1 services in Montana, including but not limited to the establishment of a passenger transportation commission.

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

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

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

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