

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

INTRODUCED BY K. DUDIK

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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 POSTINCARCERATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMER INMATES; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, without relevant job training and skills, an individual released from incarceration might struggle to find employment; and

WHEREAS, a criminal record can also hamper an individual's ability to find employment after release, particularly in careers that require a professional license; and

WHEREAS, the success of an inmate's reentry to the community after incarceration can depend on an individual's ability to secure adequate and stable employment; and

WHEREAS, finding employment after incarceration can improve a released individual's ability to secure housing and ensure the individual can meet any other important financial obligations including any required restitution or child support payments; and

WHEREAS, prison training and employment programs can provide skills that inmates can transfer to employment after release; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that individuals released from incarceration have the opportunity to access job training and develop usable job skills can be an important part of ensuring public safety and increasing a released individual's chances to successfully integrate back in to a family and community.

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 examine job training for inmates in Montana's prisons. The study should:

- (1) identify current barriers to employment after release, including employment or professional license restrictions based on a felony conviction;



