

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

INTRODUCED BY J. READ

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO ASSESS THE STATE'S ABILITY TO DEFEND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.

WHEREAS, Montana's electric transmission grid serves the vital function of moving power from many different generating plants to customers and their electric loads; and

WHEREAS, the state has taken steps to ensure the reliability of the transmission grid, but the grid is not currently able to withstand major electromagnetic pulse, terrorism, or wildfire events; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has concluded that the nation's power grid is vulnerable to the effects of an electromagnetic pulse caused by a nuclear attack or by natural phenomenon; and

WHEREAS, a systematically designed and executed terrorist attack could cause disruptions to the state's infrastructure, creating adverse impacts to the health, safety, and economy of the state; and

WHEREAS, Montana routinely experiences large wildfires that pose risks not only to homes and businesses but also to electrical transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, many states have installed black start diesel generators in hydroelectric dams to ensure hydroelectric power plants can restart when electricity is not readily available.

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 assess the ability of the state's infrastructure to withstand attacks such as electromagnetic pulse, terrorism, and wildfire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:

- (1) gather, analyze, and assess data related to the current condition of the state's infrastructure, with primary focus on the electrical transmission grid;
- (2) identify key weaknesses in defending the state's infrastructure against natural and manmade threats;
- (3) assess the viability of installing black start diesel generators in more hydroelectric dams; and



