

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

2 INTRODUCED BY K. DUDIK

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE PROVISION AND COORDINATION OF SERVICES  
6 TO CHILDREN WITH AN INCARCERATED PARENT; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE  
7 STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

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9 WHEREAS, parental incarceration can be considered an adverse childhood experience; and  
10 WHEREAS, children with an incarcerated parent face numerous challenges, including possible loss of  
11 their home, sense of safety, and parental affection and comfort; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Montana has an interest in ensuring that children with an incarcerated parent  
13 are provided with the services and support during and after the parent's incarceration.

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15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 STATE OF MONTANA:

17 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to  
18 section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the provision and coordination of services to  
19 children with an incarcerated parent. The study should:

20 (1) identify existing state and community-based services and programs for children with a parent who  
21 is incarcerated, including those available to the parent while incarcerated;

22 (2) identify methods to improve collaboration and coordination of existing services and programs,  
23 including services or programs provided prior to release from incarceration or as transitional support immediately  
24 after release;

25 (3) identify any gaps in the current services or any additional services that could be provided in state  
26 prisons or through community-based programs; and

27 (4) identify costs of services or programs that are necessary to implement a comprehensive, coordinated  
28 system of care that addresses the unique needs of children with an incarcerated parent.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study review other jurisdictions' activities, policies, directives, and  
30 laws relating to children with an incarcerated parent and any best practices established for these programs or

1 services.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study solicit the views of the Department of Corrections, the  
3 Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Office of Public Instruction, community corrections and  
4 other community-based service providers, and other stakeholders identified by the committee.

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

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
8 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
10 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 67th Legislature.

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