

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

INTRODUCED BY B. HAMLETT, T. JACOBSON, R. LYNCH

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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 ~~CHANGING FROM AN ELECTED TO AN APPOINTED~~ THE
6 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

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8 WHEREAS, the Montana legislature is responsible for establishing the organizational structure of the
9 Montana public service commission; and

10 WHEREAS, an analysis of pertinent information and stakeholder input is needed to determine whether
11 changing from an elected to an appointed public service commission could result in a quantifiable improvement
12 for both customers and regulated utilities.

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

16 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
17 section 5-5-217, MCA, to:

18 (1) examine existing state laws and laws in other states related to the establishment of public service
19 or utility commissions, including a review of:

- 20 ~~(a) commission qualification requirements;~~
- 21 ~~—— (b) commission salaries; and~~
- 22 ~~—— (c) the role of elected versus appointed commissioners;~~

23 (A) EXISTING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 69-1-104, MCA, AND OPTIONS
24 FOR PROVIDING FOR GREATER EQUALIZATION AMONG DISTRICTS;

25 (B) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION STAFFING, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE LEGAL SERVICES;

26 (C) THE ROLE OF THE CONSUMER COUNSEL IN THE CONDUCT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
27 REGULATION;

- 28 (2) solicit and consider comments, concerns, and suggestions from all interested stakeholder groups;
- 29 (3) identify and analyze relevant policy and logistical issues and options; and
- 30 (4) if appropriate, develop a committee bill to revise related state laws based on the committee's study



1 findings and recommendations.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

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

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