

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 45

2 INTRODUCED BY D. LOGE, D. FERN

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA PROVIDING FOR AN INTERIM STUDY OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATHS.

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7 WHEREAS, residents and tourists are attracted to lifelong activities including bicycling and walking; and

8 WHEREAS, a 2015 survey of Montana residents indicates that 46% of respondents bicycled in the
9 previous year, 48% of bicycling was on paved paths, and only 13% of respondents felt "somewhat safe" or "very
10 safe" when bicycling; and

11 WHEREAS, bicyclists are utilizing a legal, valid, and recognized mode of transportation and have defined
12 responsibilities and considerations, including a higher need for protection and accommodating infrastructure; and

13 WHEREAS, bicycle and pedestrian paths are often situated in the rights of way of county and municipal
14 roadways maintained by the Montana Department of Transportation, and funding for maintenance of the paths
15 lacks coordination and alignment; and

16 WHEREAS, the State of Montana has instituted fee-for-use systems, including activities on Department
17 of Natural Resources and Conservation lands, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks sites, state highways, and snowmobile
18 trails for maintenance and construction of trails.

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

22 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to
23 section 5-5-217, MCA, to study bicycle and pedestrian paths, including:

24 (1) the purposes for which bicycle and pedestrian paths are used, including but not limited to
25 transportation, recreation, and tourism;

26 (2) safety implications related to bicycle and pedestrian paths;

27 (3) economic impacts of bicycle and pedestrian paths;

28 (4) current levels of funding for bicycle and pedestrian paths provided by the state and local
29 governments;

30 (5) consideration of funding options; and

1 (6) how other states and adjacent provinces establish, fund, and manage bicycle and pedestrian paths.

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

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

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