

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 52

INTRODUCED BY B. USHER

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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 SHERIFF QUALIFICATIONS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution provides for the office of sheriff in each county, establishes that any qualified elector is eligible for public office, and provides that the Legislature may establish additional qualifications for public office; and

WHEREAS, the duties of Montana sheriffs, including administrative and enforcement duties, are becoming increasingly varied, complex, and demanding due to state growth in population and diversity; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has established qualifications for continuing education requirements or voluntary certification programs for other local offices, including coroner, county attorney, and justice of the peace.

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 consider whether to establish additional sheriff qualifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study consider whether education requirements and certification programs are appropriate for sheriffs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the designated interim committee consult with state and county agencies and other stakeholders as appropriate, including the Department of Justice, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, the Montana Public Safety Officers Standards and Training Council, the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, and the Montana Association of Counties.

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

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



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