

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

2 INTRODUCED BY F. MANDEVILLE

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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 LEGISLATIVE STUDY ON ALTERNATIVE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS
6 IN WHICH A WINNING CANDIDATE WOULD ULTIMATELY EARN A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES.

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8 WHEREAS, Montana uses a plurality electoral system, sometimes called a "winner-take-all" system, in
9 which the candidate with the most votes wins; and

10 WHEREAS, a plurality electoral system may result in a candidate being elected with less than majority
11 support, which fails what is sometimes called the "Condorcet criterion" used to ensure the winner is the candidate
12 with more than 50% of the votes; and

13 WHEREAS, other electoral systems are available, such as two-round systems, ranked choice and instant
14 runoff systems, and nonpartisan blanket "jungle" primaries, sometimes called a top-two primary; and

15 WHEREAS, other states have adopted versions of these alternative electoral systems, such as California
16 and Louisiana with top-two primaries, Georgia with a two-round system, and Maine with a ranked choice instant
17 runoff system; and

18 WHEREAS, an interim legislative study would facilitate research and discussion about the various
19 aspects of these systems and whether an alternative system would be desirable in Montana.

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

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

25 (1) gather information on alternative electoral systems;

26 (2) evaluate the pros and cons of these systems and how these systems are applied in other states; and

27 (3) if appropriate, develop recommendations to the next legislature for the adoption of an alternative
28 electoral system in Montana.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study facilitate participation by the public and all the various
30 stakeholders.

