

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

INTRODUCED BY B. HAMLETT

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF CHANGING FROM AN ELECTED TO AN APPOINTED PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

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

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

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, to:

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

- (a) commission qualification requirements;
- (b) commission salaries; and
- (c) the role of elected versus appointed commissioners;

(2) solicit and consider comments, concerns, and suggestions from all interested stakeholder groups;

(3) identify and analyze relevant policy and logistical issues and options; and

(4) if appropriate, develop a committee bill to revise related state laws based on the committee's study findings and recommendations.

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

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

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