SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

INTRODUCED BY J. COHENOUR

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF ISSUES RELATED TO THE DISSEMINATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LOCATION DATA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, debates during the 66th Legislature have raised many issues concerning the dissemination of location data for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need to research and debate how or whether the state should protect fish and wildlife location data, including den and nest sites, spawning locations, congregation areas, courtship display grounds, and harvest locations; and

WHEREAS, it is the role of the Legislature to guide the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in the areas of protection, preservation, management, and propagation of fish and wildlife in Montana.

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 or statutory committee, pursuant to 5-5-217, MCA, to:

(1) examine existing state laws related to dissemination of fish and wildlife data, the history of those laws, and rules implementing those laws;

(2) review how other states manage fish and wildlife data;

(3) solicit and consider comments, concerns, and suggestions from all interested stakeholder groups and the public;

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

(5) if appropriate, develop a committee bill to address the committee's study findings and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
requirements, 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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