

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

INTRODUCED BY F. THOMAS

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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 ALTERNATIVE SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than one in five households in the United States depend on septic systems to treat wastewater through both natural and technological processes, typically beginning with solids settling in a septic tank, and ending with wastewater treatment in the soil via the drainfield; and

WHEREAS, septic systems can protect public health, preserve valuable water resources, and maintain economic vitality in a community; and

WHEREAS, septic systems are a cost-effective and long-term option for treating wastewater, particularly in less densely populated areas; and

WHEREAS, there is no one-size-fits-all type of septic system; septic system design is specific to the soil type, site conditions, and usage levels; and

WHEREAS, a thorough review of septic system regulations in Montana and other states that includes an examination of alternative septic systems would benefit public health, the environment, and residents in rural communities.

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:

- (1) evaluate current state and local regulations for designing and permitting septic systems and compare those regulations to other states; and
- (2) examine alternative septic systems and provide recommendations to encourage the use of alternative septic systems.

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.



