

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

INTRODUCED BY D. SANDS

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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 TRAFFIC SAFETY SYSTEMS AND POLICY; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, a 2017 study conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board cited speeding as a deadly national problem with an estimated 10,000 fatalities occurring on United States roadways each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Montana Department of Transportation adopted Vision Zero policies that utilize interdisciplinary, data-driven approaches in order to address and combat roadway fatalities; and

WHEREAS, statewide crash data from the Montana Department of Transportation reports that in 2017, 3,571 crashes occurred on the state's roadways, down from the 3,739 crashes that occurred in 2014 when the department adopted Vision Zero policies; and

WHEREAS, policies adopted in 2014 have proven successful, and thus instituting further related policies utilizing diverse stakeholders has the potential to keep drivers, passengers, bike riders, and pedestrians safe on Montana's roadways.

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 study traffic policies that utilize a more dynamic system to create safer roadways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:

- (1) gather and analyze data related to the current highway safety plan adopted by the Montana Department of Transportation, including infrastructure and policy components;
- (2) gather and analyze data to further understand traffic safety issues in the state and determine areas needing improvement;
- (3) assess current methods used to engage citizens in areas with high instances of traffic issues and seek feedback from citizens on how to best rectify safety issues;



1 (4) determine if current policies meet the needs of citizens and traffic enforcement and whether further
2 policies need to be adopted in order to promote and secure road safety; and

3 (5) seek input from various stakeholders, including city and county government entities and applicable
4 state agencies.

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

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

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

11 - END -