

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

2 INTRODUCED BY E. HILL

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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 STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF COMBINING SCHOOL
6 ELECTIONS WITH OTHER ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE VOTER TURNOUT, SEEK
7 EFFICIENCIES, AND ENSURE ELECTION INTEGRITY.

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9 WHEREAS, combining school elections with other elections is a perennial topic of discussion within the
10 Montana Legislature evidenced by no less than six legislative proposals since 2001; and

11 WHEREAS, the 2013-2014 State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee conducted
12 the Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 study on combining school elections and primary elections but ultimately set
13 that question aside to first address various inconsistencies in existing election law, which led to the passage of
14 House Bill No. 84, a massive clean-up bill with 264 sections, enacted by the 2015 legislature; and

15 WHEREAS, with those inconsistencies now addressed, returning to the question of combining school
16 elections with either primary or general elections is in order, and because of the complexities involved would be
17 most appropriately undertaken during the interim.

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

21 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
22 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study election laws and
23 procedures to identify opportunities to combine school elections with either primary or general elections.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study examine:

25 (1) the current state of school elections, including voter turnout and the costs of administration, and
26 the potential benefits and drawbacks of combined elections;

27 (2) previous legislative proposals and studies regarding combining school elections with either
28 primary or general elections;

