

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

2 INTRODUCED BY S. O'BRIEN

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF VEHICLE SAFETY ISSUES RELATED TO
6 HEADLIGHTS.

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8 WHEREAS, advancements in headlight technology have generally contributed to the safe operations of
9 motor vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, Montana highways are unique in their openness and low traffic volume; and

11 WHEREAS, maximizing visibility at the greatest possible distance may help reduce the number of
12 serious traffic accidents and highway fatalities in Montana.

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

16 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
17 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study vehicle safety issues
18 related to headlights.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study examine:

20 (1) emerging safety issues related to headlight design and use, including but not limited to:

21 (a) requiring the use of headlights during the day or during adverse weather;

22 (b) headlight design that impacts brightness and tint and the effects on:

23 (i) road and vehicle visibility and oncoming vehicles; and

24 (ii) the ability of drivers of oncoming vehicles to see; and

25 (c) modulating headlights on motorcycles;

26 (2) how other states have updated headlight laws to reflect technological changes and federal
27 regulations; and

28 (3) any changes to Montana statutes related to headlights that would improve highway safety and

1 save lives.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee request the participation of stakeholders in
3 conducting the study, including the Motor Vehicle Division of the Department of Justice, state and local law
4 enforcement, private organizations invested in improving traffic safety, and other interested parties as
5 determined by the committee.

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

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
9 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2022.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
11 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 68th Legislature.

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