

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

2 INTRODUCED BY D. SANDS, S. MORIGEAU, S. WEBBER, R. LYNCH, K. KELKER, D. LENZ, B. USHER, J.

3 WINDY BOY

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5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE MONTANA WOMEN'S
7 PRISON FACILITY AND PROGRAMS.

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9 WHEREAS, the building currently used as the Montana Women's Prison was purchased by the
10 Department of Corrections in 1994 and previously served as a psychiatric hospital before being converted to a
11 prison facility; and

12 WHEREAS, the Montana Women's Prison's last major expansion occurred in 2003; and

13 WHEREAS, the Montana Women's Prison has 250 beds and houses approximately 225 felony
14 inmates; and

15 WHEREAS, a significant number of the inmates held at the Montana Women's Prison are American
16 Indian; and

17 WHEREAS, access to equal programming for educational opportunities and job training is not
18 adequate or equal to the men's facilities; and

19 WHEREAS, the Montana Women's Prison has an aging inmate population and lacks a geriatric facility
20 comparable to that for male inmates; and

21 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections recently contracted for a Strategic Development Master
22 Plan for department facilities, including facility analysis and recommendations for the Montana Women's Prison.

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

26 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
27 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the Montana Women's
28 Prison facility and available programs. The study must examine:

