

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

2 INTRODUCED BY C. FRIEDEL

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE IMPACTS OF A DEFENDANT'S FAILURE TO
6 APPEAR IN COURT; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO
7 THE 69TH LEGISLATURE.

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

11 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
12 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study the financial and
13 public safety impacts when a criminal defendant fails to appear in court.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve courts representative of all jurisdictions, including
15 city, county, and state courts.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve input from stakeholders, including state and local
17 law enforcement, prosecutors and defense attorneys, judges, court staff, and other stakeholders identified by
18 the committee.

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
22 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
24 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.

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