SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38
INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN


WHEREAS, communications technology is advancing rapidly alongside recent federal efforts to boost deployment in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montanans rely on access to high-speed internet and modern communications systems; and

WHEREAS, the state may lack adequate data to understand the scope of communications infrastructure deficiencies in many regions of the state.

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 or statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine any existing policy issues impacting the accessibility, affordability, security, reliability, and connectivity of the communications network in Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study account for the equity of internet access among communities in Montana.

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

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

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

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