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As of: July 22, 2016 (10:58am)

LCREC2

**** Joint Resolution No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana requesting an interim study of renewable energy credits.

WHEREAS, the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act, Title 69, chapter 3, part 20, has required certain utilities to procure a percentage of their resources from renewable resources since 2008, and renewable energy credits (certificates) are used to meet acquisition targets; and

WHEREAS, the environmental attributes of a renewable power source reside in an unbundled renewable energy credit and associated electrons are considered generic electricity in power markets and priced accordingly; and

WHEREAS, there are no central clearinghouses and no futures market for renewable energy credits, and contracts for large volumes of renewable energy credits often contain confidentiality clauses that prohibit price disclosure for the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, mandatory renewable energy credit reporting in Montana provided little-to-no consistent and useful information.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF

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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

(1) review the use of renewable energy credits in Montana;
and

(2) study and make recommendations on:

(a) how to better educate the public and policymakers about the use of renewable energy credits;

(b) a more productive, potential future design and administrative review of renewable energy credits in Montana; and

(c) the viability of Montana renewable energy credits to be used and traded in the Western grid markets.

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, 2018.

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 66th Legislature.

- END -

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