

Unofficial Draft Copy

As of: September 4, 2018 (4:15pm)

LCsa5A

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

Introduced By *****

By Request of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs

Interim Committee

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana requesting an interim legislative study on accessibility for electors with disabilities.

WHEREAS, the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee during the 2017-2018 interim learned about accessible voting technology for electors with disabilities and conducted a preliminary review of related state statutes; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary review revealed that Montana statutes could be updated with respect to federal law references and statutory language concerning accessible voting machines and technology; and

WHEREAS, the review also raised significant policy questions about whether and how to improve accessibility for electors with disabilities, such as whether to require that accessible voting machines be available for use in all elections, not just for federal elections; and

WHEREAS, an interim study would allow for a systematic review of federal and state laws concerning accessibility for electors with disabilities and a careful examination of related policy issues with the participation of all interested stakeholder groups.

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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, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, to:

(1) examine federal and state laws related to accessibility for electors with disabilities;

(2) solicit and consider comments, concerns, and suggestions from all interested stakeholder groups, including the elections staff in the Office of the Secretary of State, election administrators, counties, school districts, elderly electors, and electors with disabilities;

(3) identify and analyze relevant policy issues and options; and

(4) if appropriate, develop a committee bill to update or revise related state laws based on the committee's study findings and recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

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 67th Legislature.

- END -

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