

Unofficial Draft Copy

As of: May 2, 2018 (11:01am)

LCdoj3

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

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

****For discussion purposes by the STRC at its May 2018 meeting****

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana requesting an interim study of options to break the cycle of youth who run away from home.

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice reports that 73 Montana youth were reported missing three or more times in 2017 with one youth reported missing 18 times in that year; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice reports that 568 Montana youth were reported missing three or more times between 2013 and 2017 with one youth reported missing 26 times during that period; and

WHEREAS, at least one-quarter of those youth are American Indian; and

WHEREAS, it is unknown how many of those youth are involved in the state foster care system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice and the State-Tribal Relations Committee recommend developing methods to intervene with youth who run away to determine why they ran away and assist with underlying problems in order to break the runaway cycle, which drains school, law enforcement, youth court, and other resources.

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, to study options to break the cycle of youth who run away from home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee:

(1) examine the economic impacts of youth who run away, including costs to schools, law enforcement, the judicial system, and the social services system; and

(2) determine the number of foster youth who run away.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, 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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