

1 **** JOINT RESOLUTION NO. ****

2 INTRODUCED BY ****

3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****

4
5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF MISSING YOUTH AND IN PARTICULAR, MISSING
7 INDIGENOUS YOUTH.

8
9 WHEREAS, 80% of all missing persons in Montana are youth under age 18, a figure that is consistent
10 in both tribal communities and urban Indian populations; and

11 WHEREAS, indigenous men and women in Montana go missing at a rate 4 times higher than non-
12 indigenous persons.

13
14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
15 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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17 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
18 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine the issue of
19 missing youth, and in particular, missing indigenous youth, for the purpose of determining how the state of
20 Montana can reduce the number of missing youth and increase the chances of quickly locating missing youth.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee:

22 (1) collaborate with the department of justice, the missing indigenous persons task force, and tribal
23 governments in examining this issue;

24 (2) gather information about missing youth cases and reasons that youth are reported missing;

25 (3) examine efforts made by other states and jurisdictions to reduce the number of youth reported
26 missing and decrease the amount of time for missing youth to be located and determine whether these
27 approaches warrant adoption in Montana.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be

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Drafter: Pad McCracken, 406-444-3595

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1 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

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

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

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- END -

DRAFT