

# HJ 23: INTERIM STUDY OF DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICE RECOVERY RESPONSE

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE  
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## BACKGROUND

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During the September 2023 State Administration and Veterans' Affairs (SAVA) Interim Committee meeting, members voted to allocate 0.25 FTE to member topics in the committee workplan. At the November 2023 meeting, committee members voted to take up the HJ 23 study of disaster and emergency service recovery response in Montana. The HJ 23 study was introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session and died in standing committee on the last day.

## TASKS LISTED IN HJ 23 STUDY RESOLUTION

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The following tasks are included in the HJ 23 study resolution:

- Review post-emergency disaster recovery and response efforts and timelines in the state, including:
  - responses to natural disasters, such as forest fires, floods, and severe storms; and
  - responses to other disasters, such as train derailments, major car crashes, and contamination incidents;
- Review the role and past actions of local, county, tribal, state, and federal entities in the response and recovery process;
- Review the use of local, state, and federal funds in short-term and long-term disaster recovery and response efforts;
- Develop recommendations for:
  - improvements to disaster recovery and response processes and timelines to better support communities, counties, and agriculture;
  - improvements to communication, collaboration, and division of labor between local, county, tribal, state, and federal entities during disaster recovery and response efforts; and
  - improvements to the permitting, approval, and capital deployment processes to increase the speed and effectiveness of recovery efforts; and
- Determine if legislative changes are needed to ensure that Montana communities are receiving the best support in the wake of a disaster.
- Conduct the study including representatives from interested parties, including but not limited to:
  - the Montana Association of Counties,
  - the Montana League of Cities and Towns,
  - the Montana Division of Disaster and Emergency Services,
  - representatives from tribal governments across the state, and
  - representatives from conservation districts.

## PROPOSED TIMELINE AND TOPICS/TASKS FOR STUDY

MEETING	PRESENTATIONS, ACTION ITEMS, & DELIVERABLES
<b>January 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and Approve Draft Study Plan</li> </ul>
<b>March 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Current Procedures for Disaster Emergency Service Recovery Response</li> <li>Review the Role of Local, County, Tribal, State, and Federal Entities</li> <li>Review the Use of Local, State, and Federal Funds</li> <li>Review Recent Disaster Events in Montana</li> <li>Hear from Stakeholders</li> <li>Review Best Practices from Other States and Federal Government</li> </ul>
<b>May 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up on March Topics (<i>as needed</i>)</li> <li>Discuss HJ 23-Related Committee Legislation Ideas</li> <li>Discuss HJ 23 Final Report</li> </ul>
<b>July 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Draft HJ 23-Related Committee Legislation Ideas</li> <li>Review Draft HJ 23 Final Report</li> </ul>
<b>September 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize HJ 23-Related Committee Legislation Ideas</li> <li>Finalize HJ 23 Final Report</li> </ul>

## DELIVERABLES

At the end of the 2023-2024 interim, the following documents will be prepared in addition to any staff papers requested throughout the course of the study:

- HJ 23 Final Report
- Committee Legislation