

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

INTRODUCED BY B. BECK

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF PRIVATIZING ADMINISTRATION OF THE MONTANA VETERANS' HOME AT COLUMBIA FALLS.

WHEREAS, the Montana Veterans' Home at Columbia Falls has for more than a century provided care to Montanans who have served their country; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Veterans' Home is a 105-bed facility owned and operated by the state of Montana; and

WHEREAS, the state of Montana also owns the 80-bed Eastern Montana Veterans' Home in Glendive but contracts with a private entity for administration of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Legislature has considered reviewing the operational costs of the Montana Veterans' Home in an attempt to reduce costs to the state while maintaining the same level of quality care and lifestyle for residents.

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 examine both the costs of and benefits to the state of privatizing the administration of the Montana Veterans' Home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study review:

- (1) the potential savings to the state of contracting administration to a private entity;
- (2) the potential costs to the state of contracting administration to a private entity;
- (3) whether privatization of similar facilities in Montana has reduced costs to the state, increased costs, or resulted in unanticipated costs or loss of federal funds;
- (4) methods used by facilities providing skilled nursing care and long-term care to individuals to manage costs associated with providing care; and
- (5) other issues as determined by the committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee request participation in the study by the Department
2 of Public Health and Human Services, by veterans' groups, including but not limited to the Veterans of Foreign
3 Wars, the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans, by employees of the Montana Veterans' Home,
4 by area legislators, and by other interested parties.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
6 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2012.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
8 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 63rd Legislature.

9 - END -