

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22  
2 INTRODUCED BY C. CHRISTIAENS, STONINGTON, BOHLINGER, ELLIOTT, GLASER, HARGROVE,  
3 HARRINGTON, MAHLUM, MCCARTHY, NELSON, F. THOMAS, TOOLE, WATERMAN, MILLER  
4 BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDING COMMITTEE  
5  
6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
7 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT AN APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE OR SUFFICIENT STAFF  
8 RESOURCES BE DIRECTED TO STUDY HEALTH CARE AND THE INCREASING COST OF HEALTH  
9 INSURANCE.  
10  
11 WHEREAS, rising health care costs are detrimental to stable lifestyles and the well-being of  
12 families; and  
13 WHEREAS, health care costs and health insurance rates are increasing above the rate of inflation;  
14 and  
15 WHEREAS, rising health insurance costs have a significant impact on the overall personnel and  
16 salary budgets of governmental agencies; and  
17 WHEREAS, uncompensated care is a burden on all taxpayers, insurance carriers, and insurance  
18 consumers; and  
19 WHEREAS, prescription drug costs may be driven by advertising that extols the virtues of the  
20 newest expensive drug; and  
21 WHEREAS, because of the increased cost, a large percentage of employers in Montana no longer  
22 offer insurance benefits to their employees and many employees who have insurance have dropped  
23 dependents from coverage; and  
24 WHEREAS, all Montanans should have the opportunity to have health insurance coverage, yet 20%  
25 are not covered; and  
26 WHEREAS, mandating coverage for certain health care services and providers adds to the cost of  
27 insurance; and  
28 WHEREAS, the 58th Legislature will likely have numerous health care and health insurance issues  
29 to address; and  
30 WHEREAS, a study of health care and health insurance and how the state might deal with rising

1 costs will provide the members of the 58th Legislature with a head start in handling this complex problem.

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3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 STATE OF MONTANA:

5 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant  
6 to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to study:

7 (1) purchasing pools for individual and small group insurance;

8 (2) provider reimbursement rates and cost shifting of health care costs;

9 (3) access to affordable prescription drugs;

10 (4) strategies to decrease the number of uninsured Montanans;

11 (5) factors causing health insurance rates to increase above the rate of inflation; ~~and~~

12 (6) THE FEASIBILITY OF RECREATING THE HEALTH CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL; AND

13 ~~(6)(7)~~ any other issues that the committee or the staff deem appropriate and relevant to the  
14 problem.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee or the staff designated to conduct the  
16 study seek the participation and input of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, health care and health  
17 insurance consumers, provider organizations, insurers, the Department of Public Health and Human  
18 Services, representatives of public employee and private sector health benefit plans, local government  
19 representatives, hospitals, and any other appropriate individuals or entities.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be  
21 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
23 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2002.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
25 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 58th Legislature.

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