

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41
INTRODUCED BY M. CAMPBELL

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO INVESTIGATE THE SPECIAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING MONTANA INDIAN TRIBES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE TRIBAL LANDS OR RESERVATIONS, WHICH INCLUDE THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK INDIAN RESERVATION, THE ASSINIBOINE AND GROS VENTRE TRIBES OF THE FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION, THE CHIPPEWA AND CREE TRIBES OF THE ROCKY BOY INDIAN RESERVATION, THE BLACKFEET TRIBE OF THE BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVATION, THE SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION, THE CROW TRIBE OF THE CROW INDIAN RESERVATION, THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE INDIAN RESERVATION, AND THE LITTLE SHELL BAND OF THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS, AND THE STATE OF MONTANA WITH RESPECT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO EXAMINE ALL FACTORS IMPACTING ECONOMIC GROWTH, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TRIBAL HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AND TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC STATE OF INDIAN COUNTRY AND, BY EXTENSION, ALL OF MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 60TH LEGISLATURE IN THE FORM OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ANALYSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Montana Legislative Indian Caucus to act as a resource regarding Montana Indian issues affecting state legislative action and to do so on behalf of all political parties; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana recognizes tribal sovereignty through government-to-government relationships; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian tribes within the state of Montana are a unique and integral part of the history and future of Montana; and

WHEREAS, American Indian contributions to the economic structure of the State of Montana have never been fully studied with consideration given to all sources of tribal and individual Indian income, including natural resource ownership, utilization, and development; and

WHEREAS, state programs that involve tribal participation have not been consistently studied to understand the truly reciprocal character of economic development between Indian Country and the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, conducting research to qualify and quantify Montana's American Indian and individual tribal economic resources and identify their impact is vital to state economic growth; and

WHEREAS, assisting tribal economies in concert with assistance to other economic development goals of the state will provide improved education and employment opportunities for all Montanans; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Montana provides that all Montanans share in the responsibility for learning about and preserving the tribal cultures of Montana's American Indians.

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 or committees, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, and direct sufficient staff resources to conduct a comprehensive study of tribal economic resources in the State of Montana, including human and educational resources, land and natural resource ownership, and the ability of tribal governments to generate revenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2006.

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 60th Legislature

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