



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF RIDE SHARING AND MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES IN MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 65TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, there have been technological advances in personal transportation options offered by motor carriers and potentially available to Montanans to reduce emissions, reduce costs, increase accessibility, and increase customer choice; and

WHEREAS, innovations in services and technologies have affected the motor carrier services industry in several ways, including the types of vehicles available to passengers, booking methods, payment options, and most recently the introduction of smartphones and the ability to use a software application, or app, to arrange for a ride between a driver and a passenger; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of Montana's regulation of motor carriers and the impact of innovative technology on these different categories of motor carriers and on the economy of Montana is needed; and

WHEREAS, a piecemeal approach to regulating motor carrier services in Montana could result in a patchwork of conflicting standards, stifle innovation, and reduce consumer choice; and

WHEREAS, Montana is a rural state where public transportation options are not widely available in some areas and innovations in services and technologies that have affected the motor carrier services industry may help fill that void.

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 study motor carrier service in Montana with a focus on technological advances in personal transportation options offered by motor carriers and potentially available to Montanans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study review:

(1) the statutes, administrative rules, and Public Service Commission policies and procedures that govern motor carrier service in Montana, as well as any relevant best practices or national standards that are set for the operation of motor carriers, with an emphasis on innovations in services and technologies that affect motor carrier services;

(2) insurance coverage and policy requirements to own and operate a motor carrier providing transportation for compensation;

(3) safety regulations, including those related to motor carriers or drivers, that apply to vehicles used to provide transportation for compensation;

(4) the impact of the regulation of motor carrier services by local governments; and

(5) barriers faced by regulated motor carrier operators, including limitations because of public convenience and necessity stipulations, lease and meter rates, and enforcement of rules regarding other transportation services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve stakeholders, including the Public Service Commission, a variety of different classifications of motor carriers, representatives of local governments, representatives of ride-sharing services, and other interested parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2016.

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 65th Legislature.

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