



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTH CARE PRICING; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 66TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, increases in the costs of health care services have focused attention nationally and at the state level on ways to reduce the trends in those costs; and

WHEREAS, a wide range of factors contribute to the costs of health care services, as well as to the amount individual health care consumers pay for the services they receive; and

WHEREAS, concern over the difficulty of understanding health care costs have focused on ways to increase transparency in health care pricing.

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 health care price transparency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study review:

- (1) the factors influencing the pricing of health care services, including differences attributable to the models that different health care providers use for providing services;
- (2) efforts undertaken in other states and by entities within the state to make health care cost information more widely available to consumers;
- (3) ways to improve consumer understanding of the different factors affecting the health care prices that are charged and that consumers are responsible for paying;
- (4) methods for encouraging consumers to make informed decisions about health care costs;
- (5) existing price transparency tools and health care quality measures, including health care outcomes data and hospital accreditation data; and
- (6) ways to ensure that health care price transparency efforts provide consumers with information about

both the costs and the quality of health care services they may be considering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study examine the role of the state in improving health care price transparency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include representatives of the State Auditor's Office, the Department of Administration, health care facilities, health insurers, individual health care providers, professional associations representing health care facilities and providers, and health care consumers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2018.

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 66th Legislature.

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