

# 2025-26 WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE

## DRAFT WORK PLAN



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## INTRODUCTION

The work plan provides an outline of the Water Policy Interim Committee's work during the 2025-26 interim and establishes time allocations for each study and topic. This document provides guidance to the committee, staff, and the public over the next 15 months and serves as a blueprint for the interim.

The Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) was created in 2009 to study water policy. During the legislative interim, WPIC may focus on assigned study topics as well as any water policy issue. In 2015, the Montana Legislature expanded and focused WPIC duties to include oversight of issues **"where the primary concern is the quality or quantity of water."** See *Appendix A* for full text of WPIC's governing statutes.

## COMMITTEE PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) operates under the Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees adopted by the Legislative Council. As required by law, 10-day advance public notice will be given for all meetings and the public will be given an opportunity to comment on any matter that is within the jurisdiction of the committee. The Presiding Officer may establish time limits for public comment, if necessary. Interested persons may be added to the mailing list and sign up for electronic meeting notifications on the WPIC committee webpage.

Agendas, memos, links, and other information are found on the WPIC committee webpage:

<https://committees.legmt.gov/#/nonStandingCommittees/33>

## MEMBERS AND STAFF

Committee Members	Phone	Email
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D – East Helena)	406-227-1144	<a href="mailto:jill.cohenour@legmt.gov">jill.cohenour@legmt.gov</a>
Rep. Jamie Isaly (D - Bozeman)	406-209-2568	<a href="mailto:jamie.isaly@legmt.gov">jamie.isaly@legmt.gov</a>
Rep. Tom Millett (R - Marion)	406-212-3613	<a href="mailto:tom.millet@legmt.gov">tom.millet@legmt.gov</a>
Rep. Russ Miner (R – Great Falls)	406-899-4514	<a href="mailto:russel.miner@legmt.gov">russel.miner@legmt.gov</a>
Rep. Tracy Sharp (R - Polson)	406-407-2197	<a href="mailto:tracy.sharp@legmt.gov">tracy.sharp@legmt.gov</a>
Sen. Willis Curdy (D - Missoula)	406-728-0981	<a href="mailto:willis.curdy@legmt.gov">willis.curdy@legmt.gov</a>
Sen. Wylie Galt (R - Martinsdale)	406-220-0157	<a href="mailto:wylie.galt@legmt.gov">wylie.galt@legmt.gov</a>
Sen. Bruce "Butch" Gillespie (R - Ethridge)	406-949-4453	<a href="mailto:bruce.gillespie@legmt.gov">bruce.gillespie@legmt.gov</a>
Sen. Bob Phalen (R - Lindsay)	406-939-1187	<a href="mailto:bobby.phalen@legmt.gov">bobby.phalen@legmt.gov</a>

Staff	Phone	Email
Toni Henneman, Lead Staff	406-444-3593	<a href="mailto:toni.henneman@legmt.gov">toni.henneman@legmt.gov</a>
Alexis Sandru, Attorney	406-444-3064	<a href="mailto:alexis.sandru@legmt.gov">alexis.sandru@legmt.gov</a>

## HOW THE COMMITTEE PLANS ITS WORK

The Water Policy Interim Committee establishes a work plan at the beginning of the interim. This work plan is a road map for the 2025-26 interim and helps WPIC fulfill statutory duties such as agency oversight and rulemaking authority, while also devoting time to assigned study topics. The committee may also address issues of interest to committee members within the committee's assigned areas of water policy.

The committee establishes its work plan at the beginning of the interim. The primary constraint limiting the interim work plan is the number of issues that can be effectively addressed within available time and resources of the committee members and its staff.

This 2025-26 Draft Interim Work Plan is a decision-making tool to help committee members work together efficiently to set priorities and decide how and where to spend the WPIC's limited time and resources. The work plan establishes a strategy for fulfilling responsibilities while also remaining fluid to address potential emerging issues.

Staff will develop detailed work plans and timetables for each major study. The [Draft WPIC Work Plan Decision Matrix](#), a separate document, is a tool to see options side by side and allocate staff time according to member priorities. The matrix includes estimates for total staff time available to the committee, but keep in mind that many topics also require meeting time for updates, panel presentations, and committee discussion.

What does WPIC do?
Conducts interim studies
Monitors agencies
Reviews administrative rules
Reviews councils, reports
Examines emerging water issues
Proposes, reviews legislation
Reviews ballot initiatives

## WPIC STATUTORY DUTIES & OBLIGATIONS

### AGENCY OVERSIGHT

WPIC is established by law to provide oversight for issues where the primary concern is the quality or quantity of water<sup>1</sup> in certain programs of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Park (FWP), and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). WPIC may determine the issues it examines and conduct program evaluations of programs under its oversight purview. The program evaluation process allows for an in-depth and contextual review of a program, including applicable laws, rules, funding, and implementation.

<sup>1</sup> Section 5-5-231, MCA.

The committee’s oversight duties do not stop with those three agencies, however. State law requires WPIC to “oversee the policies and activities of...other state executive agencies, and other state institutions as those policies and activities affect the water resources of the state”.<sup>2</sup> The committee retains oversight of and an interest in other water programs, such as the Department of Agriculture’s groundwater monitoring program.

## REQUIRED REPORTS

Additionally, certain agencies have reporting requirements to WPIC, and those reports are often included in the agency oversight portion of the committee’s work.

Report	Entity	Deadline	Statute
Appropriation rights changed to instream flow	FWP	September 1, 2026	<a href="#">85-2-436</a> , MCA
Ground Water Investigation Program	MT Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG)	September 1, 2026	<a href="#">85-2-525</a> , MCA
Prioritization of water storage projects	Governor's office	September 1, 2026	<a href="#">85-1-704</a> , MCA
Progress of the adjudication of pre-1973 water rights)	DNRC and Water Court	Quarterly	<a href="#">85-2-281</a> , MCA
Status of the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program	DNRC	September 1, 2026	<a href="#">85-1-621</a> , MCA
Stream gauge network oversight	DNRC	Annually	<a href="#">2-15-3308</a> , MCA
Review of state water reservations	DNRC	September 15, 2026	<a href="#">85-2-316</a> , MCA
Total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impaired and threatened water bodies	DEQ	September 1, 2026	<a href="#">75-5-703</a> , MCA
Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee	Steering Committee	September 1, 2026	<a href="#">85-2-338</a> , MCA
U.S. Forest Service state water reservation applications	DNRC	Biennially	<a href="#">85-20-1401</a> , MCA
Weather modification feasibility study	DNRC	Received 7/2025	uncodified ( <a href="#">HB2</a> , 2023)
Western Montana Conservation Commission	DNRC	September 1, 2026	<a href="#">85-1-904</a> , MCA
Temporary leases of appropriation rights ( <i>NEW in 2025</i> )	DNRC	Annually	<a href="#">SB 178</a> , 2025
Fox Hills-Hell Creek aquifer feasibility study ( <i>NEW in 2025</i> )	MBMG	June 30, 2027	<a href="#">HB 935</a> , 2025

<sup>2</sup> Section 85-2-105, MCA.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

The Legislature often authorizes administrative agencies to carry out the Legislature's intent by adopting administrative rules. These rules have the full force and effect of law and may be adopted and revised throughout the year. Administrative rule functions are governed by the Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA).

State law allows WPIC to review and monitor administrative rules promulgated by DEQ, FWP, and DNRC, where the primary concern is the quality or quantity of water. The committee may participate in the rulemaking process, ranging from offering comments or suggestions to objecting and delaying a rule implementation. The committee attorney will review administrative rules and provide the committee information about proposed and adopted rules, identifying areas of concern.

## REVIEW PROPOSED STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

[Senate Bill 93](#), 2023 requires the interim committee to hold a public hearing on a statewide initiative referred to the committee by the executive director of the Legislative Services Division. The committee then votes to either support or not support the placement of the proposed statewide initiative on the ballot. The petition used to gather signatures to place the statewide initiative on the ballot must include the interim committee vote.

However, the statutory requirement for interim committee review of ballot initiatives is being litigated at the Montana Supreme Court. Staff will update the committee when litigation is completed and if the committee has any duties in this area while the case is pending. (Case: [Ellingson v. State](#), Montana Supreme Court No. DA 25-0142, Filed Feb 18, 2025).

## REVIEW AGENCY LEGISLATION & PROPOSE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION

The committee may produce its own legislation and approves agency legislation for preintroduction to the next legislative session. Usually, the committee will receive and review agency proposed legislation during the final two meetings of the interim.

While not a requirement of the interim, committees may request and prepare bill drafts for preintroduction. A committee may by vote request five bill drafts on a partisan basis and an unlimited number of bill drafts on a nonpartisan basis<sup>3</sup>.

### *2023-24 WPIC COMMITTEE BILLS:*

- HB 74 - Revise private fish pond and commercial take laws; Passed
- SB 55 - Provide legislative intent re: streamflow information; Passed
- SB 61 - Revise consideration for measuring streamflow

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<sup>3</sup> [HB 142](#), 2025 increased the partisan bill allotment from four to five and further clarified that partisan basis "means a vote in which members from only the majority party vote to request a bill draft".

## TIME ALLOCATION FOR COMMITTEE WORK

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The Water Policy Interim Committee is budgeted to conduct up to 10 one-day meetings. Under new legislative reimbursement policy passed in [Senate Bill 64](#), the committee may meet for a consecutive two-day meeting, but each day will be reimbursed as an individual meeting day. Staff will include a detailed timeline of interim work at the next meeting, after the committee makes preliminary decisions today.

WPIC's workload is limited only by the number of meetings and hours of available staff time. Approximately 1.0 FTE of staff time is available to conduct committee work.



# POTENTIAL WORK PLAN TOPICS

## STUDY RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 44: INTERIM STUDY OF ENDOCRINE-DISRUPTING CHEMICALS AND WATER QUALITY

**Legislative Poll Ranking:** 9 of 36

HJ44<sup>4</sup> requests a study to:

- Review the documented health risks associated with human consumption of endocrine-disrupting chemicals present in water;
- Examine if the state is taking sufficient steps to protect citizens from those risks; and
- Identify the sources and prevalence of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the state.

OPTION A (HIGH)	OPTION B (MODERATE)	OPTION C (LOW)	OPT D
<b>.50 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>All of option B</b></li><li>• Additional panel discussions, focused on multi-state and federal participation</li><li>• Attempt to determine the prevalence of EDCs* in Montana (<i>staff note: legislative committees are unable to conduct scientific research, so will rely on research from other sources, if available</i>)</li><li>• Deeper dive into methods to regulate or prevent EDCs</li><li>• Analysis of costs to regulate or mitigate EDCs</li></ul>	<b>.30 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>All of option C</b></li><li>• Analysis of state water quality laws and federal acts that protect water and may regulate EDCs</li><li>• Review of other states' policies related to EDCs identification and regulation</li><li>• Review methods to identify, measure, and test EDCs</li><li>• Analyze research related to the health effects of EDCs</li><li>• Potential legislation</li></ul>	<b>.10 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panel discussion</li><li>• Staff background paper/presentation</li><li>• Update from DEQ on past work on topic</li></ul>	<b>No Action</b>

\* For the purposes of this document, "EDC" refers to both endocrine-disrupting chemicals and perfluoroalkyl/polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which are a type of EDC.

<sup>4</sup> Copies of both study resolutions are found in Appendix B.

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 74: STUDY ANALYZING WATER RE-USE IN THE STATE

**Legislative Poll Ranking:** 15 of 36

HJ74 requests a study to:

- Review existing statutes and rules related to water reuse and existing water reuse infrastructure; and
- Examine methods used in other states and various industries that may benefit from water reuse systems.

OPTION A (MODERATE)	OPTION B (LOW)	OPTION C
.25 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All of option B</b></li> <li>• Additional analysis of the efficacy of various water reuse systems</li> <li>• Comparison and analysis of systems used in other states, with a focus on what may work in Montana</li> <li>• Examination of potential roadblocks that may prevent implementation of water reuse</li> <li>• Determination of factors needed to implement a successful water reuse system and whether those factors are present in Montana.</li> </ul>	.10 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel discussion</li> <li>• Staff background paper/presentation on water reuse systems and what is currently allowed in Montana</li> <li>• Staff review of the levels of treatment required for different water uses and water users</li> <li>• Potential legislation</li> </ul>	<b>No Action</b>

### MEMBER REQUESTED TOPICS, EMERGING ISSUES

Committee member topics and emerging issues drive much of WPIC's work, along with assigned studies. These usually cover a variety of water topics and may be answered with a single memo or presentation. Other topics may require more comprehensive review and thus require more substantial committee time. The committee may prioritize member topics and emerging issues as the interim progresses.

The following topics were generated through staff conversations with members before the first meeting.

Topic	Requesting Member(s)	Anticipated staff time
Exempt groundwater wells (SB358, 2025)	Rep. Cohenour, Rep. Miner, Sen. Galt	.40 - .10 FTE
Shields Valley water rights (Crazy Mountain Ranch)	Sen. Gillespie, Rep. Miner, Rep. Isaly	.30 - .10 FTE
Track federal changes that affect water (USGS changes, stream gages)	Rep. Cohenour	.20 - .05 FTE
Water storage (continuation of past interim work)	Sen. Curdy	.20 - .05 FTE
Review and analyze CSKT Water Compact	Rep. Sharp	.15 - .05 FTE







**Past WPIC topics that the committee may also consider:**

- Stock water rights on Taylor Grazing Act lands
- Weather modification
- Issues of drought, updated state drought plan
- Court decisions on expanded places of use for a water right
- Selenium in Lake Koocanusa
- Flathead Lake levels
- Non-point source pollution

**STAFF-SUGGESTED TOPICS:**

**Review and update:**

- [Water Rights in Montana Handbook](#) (last update: 2018)
- [A Guide to MT Water Quality Regulation](#) (last update: 2021)

Timeline of Interim Work						
July 30, 2025	October 2025	January 2026	March 2026	May 2026	July 2026	September 2026
Draft work plan	Finalize work plan	Revise work plan, as necessary				
Begin statutory duties	Continue statutory duties					
Consider study resolutions	Begin studies	Gather background	Identify options		Consider draft findings, recommendations	Finalize findings, recommendations
Prioritize member topics	Explore member topics					
				Propose draft legislation	Review draft legislation	Approve legislation for preintroduction
						Approve agency legislation for preintroduction

## DRAFT 2025-26 WPIC MEETING DATES

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The following proposed meeting dates are staff suggestions based on room availability and committee member and staff conflicts. All meetings are currently scheduled to be held in Helena, which may be subject to change based on committee decisions.

The committee must submit a complete list of its meeting dates, times, and places to Legislative Council by August 15, 2025.

Proposed Meeting Dates	
July 30, 2025	Organizational
October 23, 2025	Begin studies, finalize work plan
January 12, 2026	
March 26, 2026	
May 11, 2026	
July 16, 2026	
September 9, 2025	Complete interim work (finish studies, approve draft final reports)

## APPENDIX A:

### LAWS THAT GUIDE WPIC'S WORK

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HB 142, Section 1. Section 5-5-215, MCA, is amended to read:

**"5-5-215. Duties of interim committees.** (1) Each interim committee shall:

- (a) review administrative rules within its jurisdiction;
  - (b) subject to 5-5-217(3), conduct interim studies as assigned;
  - (c) monitor the operation of assigned executive branch agencies with specific attention to the following:
    - (i) identification of issues likely to require future legislative attention;
    - (ii) opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems experienced with the application of the law by an agency; and
    - (iii) experiences of the state's citizens with the operation of an agency that may be amenable to improvement through legislative action;
  - (d) review, if requested by any member of the interim committee, the statutorily established advisory councils and required reports of assigned agencies to make recommendations to the next legislature on retention or elimination of any advisory council or required reports pursuant to 5-11-210;
  - (e) review proposed legislation of assigned agencies or entities as provided in the joint legislative rules;
  - (f) accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon its assignment and relevant to existing or prospective legislation as it determines, on its own initiative, to be pertinent to the adequate completion of its work; and
  - (g) review proposed ballot initiatives within the interim committee's subject area and vote to either support or not support the placement of the text of an initiative on the ballot in accordance with 13-27-202.
- (2) Each interim committee shall prepare bills and resolutions that, in its opinion, the welfare of the state may require for presentation to the next regular session of the legislature. An interim committee may by vote request five bill drafts on a partisan basis and an unlimited number of bill drafts on a bipartisan basis.
- (3) The legislative services division shall keep accurate records of the activities and proceedings of each interim committee.
- (4) As used in this section:
- (a) "bipartisan basis" means a vote in which members from more than one party vote to request a bill draft; and
  - (b) "partisan basis" means a vote in which members from only the majority party vote to request a bill draft."

**5-5-231. Water policy interim committee.** (1) There is a water policy interim committee. The committee shall:

- (a) determine which water policy issues it examines;
- (b) conduct interim studies as assigned pursuant to 5-5-217;

(c) subject to the provisions of 5-5-202(4), coordinate with the environmental quality council and other interim committees to avoid duplication of efforts;

(d) provide recommendations and a report, if one is written, in accordance with 5-5-216 for studies completed by the committee; and

(e) in accordance with 5-5-215, for issues where the primary concern is the quality or quantity of water, perform the administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring functions of an interim committee for the following executive branch agencies and the entities attached to the agencies for administrative purposes:

(i) department of environmental quality;

(ii) department of fish, wildlife, and parks; and

(iii) department of natural resources and conservation.

(2) At least two members of the committee must possess experience in agriculture.

**85-2-105. Water policy interim committee duties.** (1) The water policy interim committee established in 5-5-231 shall meet as often as necessary, including during the interim between sessions, to perform the duties specified within this section.

(2) On a continuing basis, the water policy interim committee may:

(a) advise the legislature on the adequacy of the state's water policy and on important state, regional, national, and international developments that affect Montana's water resources;

(b) oversee the policies and activities of the department, other state executive agencies, and other state institutions as those policies and activities affect the water resources of the state;

(c) assist with interagency coordination related to Montana's water resources; and

(d) communicate with the public on matters of water policy as well as the water resources of the state.

(3) On a regular basis, the water policy interim committee shall:

(a) analyze and comment on the state water plan required by 85-1-203, when filed by the department;

(b) analyze and comment on the report of the status of the state's renewable resource grant and loan program required by 85-1-621, when filed by the department;

(c) analyze and comment on water-related research undertaken by any state agency, institution, college, or university;

(d) analyze, verify, and comment on the adequacy of and information contained in the water information system maintained by the natural resource information system under 90-15-305; and

(e) provide recommendations and a report, if one is written, in accordance with 5-5-216 for studies completed by the committee.

## APPENDIX B: STUDY RESOLUTION TEXTS

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69th Legislature

HJ 44



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF ENDOCRINE-DISRUPTING CHEMICALS, PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES, AND WATER QUALITY; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, human reproduction is declining around the world, affecting men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, the decline in reproduction is attributed to unhealthy lifestyles and chemicals in the environment; and

WHEREAS, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, such as phthalates, bisphenol A, flame-retardants, and pesticides, interfere with the body's hormonal systems; and

WHEREAS, these endocrine-disrupting chemicals are found in toys, plastic drinking bottles, cleaning supplies, house dust, home furniture, electronics, building materials, fragrances, food, food packaging, personal care products, and drinking water; and

WHEREAS, exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals may contribute to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, asthma, obesity, and early puberty in children; thyroid disorders, breast cancer, diabetes, obesity, and infertility in women; and thyroid disorders, diabetes, obesity, infertility, prostate cancer, and low sperm count in men; and

WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products and may affect human health; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are mobile, persistent, and bioaccumulative and are not known to degrade in the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Quality has preliminarily studied PFAS and noted the

*Legislative  
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Division*

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*Authorized Print Version – HJ 44*

**ENROLLED BILL**

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Water Policy Interim Committee  
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health risks associated with PFAS; and

WHEREAS, statewide solutions should be explored in Montana to reduce or eliminate the potential risks posed by PFAS to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, declining birth rates and increasing life expectancy may create a "demographic time bomb" as future generations struggle to meet the needs and obligations of an older population, thereby reducing economic growth, decreasing tax revenue, and increasing health care costs; and

WHEREAS, declining sperm counts, diminished ovarian reserves, and increasing miscarriage rates could eventually threaten survival of the human race; and

WHEREAS, as a modest first step to combat what could become a global calamity, the Montana Legislature should examine the threats of these chemicals in our drinking water.

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 statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- (1) review how existing state water quality laws and federal acts, including the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, protect water quality in Montana and regulate endocrine-disrupting chemicals;
- (2) study the presence of PFAS in Montana, including potential sources of PFAS, sampling and testing methods to identify the presence of PFAS, and routes of human and ecological exposure;
- (3) analyze research related to the health effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals;
- (4) determine, if possible, the prevalence of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in Montana; and
- (5) offer recommendations for future study, rulemaking, or changes to law related to water quality, PFAS, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any 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, 2026.

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 70th Legislature.

- END -



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY EXAMINING WATER REUSE; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Montana's water resources are of exceptional quality and are a valuable resource to the residents of the state; and

WHEREAS, water reuse, also known as water recycling, is a process in which wastewater is purified for a designated beneficial freshwater purpose; and

WHEREAS, the potential uses of recycled water include agricultural, industrial, and municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, water reuse is a tool to promote sustainable and resilient water supplies and protect environmentally sensitive resources; and

WHEREAS, there may exist technical, regulatory, financial, and educational roadblocks preventing the implementation of water reuse programs in Montana; and

WHEREAS, individualizing levels of treatment for specific uses is more cost and energy efficient than a standardized treatment approach; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for water reuse may be underexplored in Montana.

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 statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA to:

- (1) examine existing statutes and administrative rules related to water reuse;



- (2) analyze existing reuse infrastructure, including the volume, timing, use, and availability of reused water;
- (3) examine how other states have implemented water reuse in the public and private sectors;
- (4) analyze what industries, except agriculture, and geographic areas in the state currently implement water reuse programs and what industries and geographic areas in the state may benefit from water reuse programs;
- (5) determine what legal, economic, and social barriers exist for industries and communities attempting to implement water reuse programs;
- (6) analyze what economic, environmental, and population factors necessitate the implementation of water reuse programs; and
- (7) if necessary, propose legislation to incentivize and facilitate water reuse programs in the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2026.

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 70th Legislature.

- END -