



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCING FISCAL NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Title 5, chapter 4, part 2, governs the production of fiscal notes for legislative bills; and

WHEREAS, section 5-4-201, MCA, provides that "[a]ll bills reported out of a committee of the legislature having an effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state or of a county or municipality, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, shall include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of such effect. Fiscal notes shall be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who shall determine the need for the note at the time of introduction"; and

WHEREAS, section 5-4-203, MCA, provides that "[t]he budget director, in cooperation with the state or local agencies or officials or organizations representing local agencies or officials affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note and shall return same within 6 days"; and

WHEREAS, in several other states, the legislative fiscal analyst and staff are responsible for providing fiscal notes on all proposed legislation.

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 study the benefits and drawbacks of transferring responsibility for producing fiscal notes from the executive branch to the legislative branch.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Services Division may provide administrative,

research, and legal support. The Legislative Fiscal Division may provide additional research and fiscal analysis.

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 -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HJ 40, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

INTRODUCED BY K. SULLIVAN, K. ZOLNIKOV

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