

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

INTRODUCED BY B. MERCER

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE TRANSFER OF THE BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 95 (SB 95) during the 65th Legislature created a Bureau of Crime Control within the Office of the Director of the Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, SB 95 also amended section 2-15-2006, MCA, which has since been renumbered as 2-15-2306, MCA, to remove language that allocated the Board of Crime Control to the Department of Justice for administrative purposes only and replaced it with language that allocated the board to the Department of Corrections.

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, or direct sufficient staff resources to review the basis for and the legislative history of the transfer of the Montana Board of Crime Control from the Department of Justice to the Department of Corrections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study evaluate the board's performance before and after the transfer by reviewing:

- (1) the allocation and utilization of grant funds before and after the transfer;
- (2) program evaluations performed on board grantees;
- (3) whether the board has applied for discretionary grant money between 2014 through 2019 and the outcomes of those applications;
- (4) the number and type of vacant positions before and after the transfer, including whether the board has adequate staff to seek, distribute, and administer grant funds and deliver other required services;
- (5) changes to the authority of board members;
- (6) the executive branch agencies that serve as the state administering agency for similar grant programs in other states to determine how Montana's organization compares;



1 (7) whether the board has fully allocated all grant dollars available to it; and  
2 (8) any other aspects of the transfer relevant to a better understanding of the function of the board and  
3 the results of the transfer.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee determine whether:

- 5 (1) the current organizational structure of the board meets the intent of SB 95;
- 6 (2) the board has experienced any loss of functions attributable to the transfer;
- 7 (3) there is any difference in the ability of the board regarding formula and discretionary grant allocation;

8 and

- 9 (4) the current configuration of the board and its decisions are more or less likely to control crime.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be  
11 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
13 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
15 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 67th Legislature.

16 - END -