

**Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Frank Smith - (H) Energy, Technology and Federal Relations**

68th Legislature

Drafter: Trevor Graff, 406-444-4975

HJ0037.001.002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

INTRODUCED BY F. SMITH

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON PROVIDING STATE RECOGNITION OF THE TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 69TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, more than 2,000 Montanans are enrolled members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians with tribal headquarters in Belcourt, North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the 1904 Davis Agreement resulted in the displacement of most Turtle Mountain Indians, with many relocating to Montana to live on off-reservation allotments; and

WHEREAS, approximately ~~40,000~~ 60,000 acres of land located throughout the state are allotments to Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and managed as trust lands by various Bureau of Indian Affairs agencies; and

WHEREAS, the distance from Turtle Mountain tribal headquarters and trust management by multiple agencies creates complications for members living in or holding land allotments in the state.

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) examine the history and current circumstances of Montana members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians;

(2) investigate the impacts of providing state recognition of Montana members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians; and

(3) determine whether state recognition of Montana members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians would benefit those members and the state as a whole.