

1 JOINT RESOLUTION NO.

2 INTRODUCED BY

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE GOVERNOR TO WITHDRAW FROM PUBLIC LAW 280 AND TURN OVER
6 CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OF THE FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
7 AND THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES.

9 WHEREAS, the Public Law 280 (PL-280) agreement for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
10 (CSKT) was an agreement made between the State of Montana and the CSKT but not the impacted counties;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the vast majority of the financial burden of assuming the obligation of the state and the
13 Governor to the CSKT has fallen on Lake County, which has received no reimbursement from the state since
14 the implementation of PL-280 in 1965; and

15 WHEREAS, the itemized cost detailed by Lake County for holding inmates governed by PL-280 is more
16 than \$174,000 each month; and

17 WHEREAS, an agreement to fund and implement an agreement between Lake County and the CSKT
18 passed the House and Senate of the Montana Legislature in 2023 but was then vetoed by the Governor; and

19 WHEREAS, in accordance with House Bill No. 656 of 2021, Lake County was authorized to cease
20 enforcement of the state's obligation in Lake County and has exercised its legal right to do so; and

21 WHEREAS, the Flathead Indian Reservation is the only reservation in the state that falls under PL-280,
22 and the federal government and other tribes of the state have responsibility for policing and judicial activities on
23 the other reservations in the state.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
26 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

27 (1) That the 69th Legislature of the State of Montana urges the Governor to initiate withdrawal from
28 PL-280 and turn over criminal jurisdiction of the Flathead Indian Reservation, including policing, jailing, and

1 judicial actions, to the federal government and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

2 (2) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of
3 Montana, to the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and to the Board of Lake
4 County Commissioners.

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