

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF ETHICS; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS  
6 OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.

8 WHEREAS, Article XIII, section 4, of the Montana Constitution states: "The legislature shall provide a  
9 code of ethics prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interest for members of the legislature and all  
10 state and local officers and employees"; and

11 WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted a code of ethics in 1977, which is codified in Title 2, chapter 2, part  
12 1, MCA; and

13 WHEREAS, the Joint Rules of the Legislature, the Senate Rules, and the House Rules also provide  
14 ethics rules applicable to the Legislature; and

15 WHEREAS, under section 2-2-136(1)(a), MCA, the Commissioner of Political Practices has a role in  
16 the enforcement of the code of ethics but does not have jurisdiction for a complaint concerning a legislator if a  
17 legislative act is involved in the complaint; and

18 WHEREAS, the Senate Ethics Committee and the body of the Senate have considered ethical issues  
19 during this 69th legislative session and that experience may guide a study.

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

23 That the Legislative Council study ethics issues. The study must include:

24 (1) developing a process grounded in legislative procedure for adjudicating ethics issues;

(2) determining where there are overlaps or gaps between the authority of the Legislature and the Commissioner of Political Practices; and

27 (3) considering revisions to the code of ethics and legislative rules that the Legislative Council  
28 considers necessary and expedient.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study be concluded prior to September 15, 2026.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
3 comments, or recommendations, be reported to the rules committees of the 70th Legislature and to the 70th  
4 Legislature.

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