

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF COMBINING SCHOOL ELECTIONS; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 56TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, section 20-20-105, MCA, establishes the first Tuesday in April of each year as the regular school election day and also provides for special school elections at any time determined necessary by the local school trustees; and

WHEREAS, Title 20, chapter 20, MCA, establishes procedures for conducting school elections that are distinct from those provided in Title 13, MCA, for other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, school districts and other jurisdictions hold required annual elections at the same time to share and reduce the costs of elections; and

WHEREAS, school districts, legislative districts, and other jurisdictions have boundaries, election dates, and election timelines that do not coincide; and

WHEREAS, Montana citizens would like to see a decrease in the number of school elections held by school trustees to reconsider bond or levy propositions that were defeated at elections held earlier in the year; and

WHEREAS, a majority of citizens believe that schools should be allowed to consider propositions with fiscal impacts only one time each calendar year; and

WHEREAS, costs could be saved if all school elections were held annually, either at the general election in November or at an established annual primary election in June; and

WHEREAS, school trustees would be more knowledgeable in preparing budgets if trustee elections occurred prior to the enactment of budgets.

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

(1) That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to study:

(a) the current dates and the procedures used for school elections within the state;

(b) the procedural concerns with limiting or moving school elections, including but not limited to the effects on school budgeting procedures, overlapping precinct and school district boundary concerns, differences between election procedures provided for in Title 13, MCA, and Title 20, MCA, and collective bargaining issues; and

(c) the possibility of having school elections conducted by local election administrators and of moving school elections to coincide with state and local elections held on the general election day on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November or establishing an annual primary date for all elections.

(2) That the interim committee conduct the study in consultation with interested parties involved in or affected by the election process, including but not limited to representatives of school districts, county election administrators, clerk and recorders, and rural fire and park districts and irrigation districts; and representatives of the Secretary of State, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Board of Public Education; and representatives of affected school organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee report the findings of the study to the 56th Legislature and present options for legislative consideration if the committee determines that options are necessary.

Adopted April 14, 1997

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA CONSENTING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CHAPEL AT THE INSTITUTION OF THE MONTANA WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM IN BILLINGS AND A CHURCH AT THE MONTANA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER IN BOULDER AND THE MOVING OF A CHURCH STRUCTURE FROM THE GALEN CAMPUS TO THE WARM SPRINGS CAMPUS.

WHEREAS, section 18-2-102, MCA, requires legislative consent for construction projects in excess of \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, section 18-2-102, MCA, authorizes use of a joint resolution to express legislative consent when an appropriation is not required; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections wishes to allow the construction of an interfaith chapel for worship and related activities at the institution of the Women's Correctional System in Billings through private funds for which a legislative appropriation is not required; and

WHEREAS, a small, dedicated chapel is included in current expansion plans to be funded through a statewide effort by a network of churches, civic and service groups, and individual Montana volunteers and through grants from national and state sources; and

WHEREAS, the project at the Montana Developmental Center in Boulder will include a church building on the north campus to be constructed by using funds raised in a nationwide effort; and

WHEREAS, the building will enable the residents of the Montana Developmental Center and the community of Boulder to have a place for worship and church-related activities and will provide office space for the chaplain; and

WHEREAS, a group of women from around Montana built a church at Galen many years ago and have consented to having the structure moved 6 miles to the Warm Springs Campus, and funds that will be raised through a nationwide effort will finance moving the structure and preparing a foundation, wiring, and plumbing for it; and