

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

INTRODUCED BY D. HAYMAN

BY REQUEST OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM LEGISLATIVE STUDY OF VOTER QUALIFICATIONS IN ALL SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee has been studying election laws during the past several interims; and

WHEREAS, the committee has found that voter qualifications for special purpose districts are in many cases inconsistent, confusing, and outdated; and

WHEREAS, bills have necessarily amended voter qualifications in certain special purpose districts to address particular issues in those districts, but similar issues and concerns may exist for other special purpose districts; and

WHEREAS, given the complexity of special purpose district election laws, a more comprehensive examination is merited.

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, to:

- (1) examine voter qualification laws across the entire spectrum of special purpose districts;
- (2) identify inconsistencies and any confusing or outdated language in these voter qualification provisions;
- (3) determine and consider whether there is a rational basis for differences in voter qualifications in some special purpose districts;
- (4) as appropriate, develop options to standardize, update, or clarify these laws;
- (5) in all phases of this examination, solicit and consider comments and recommendations from stakeholders as well as the interested public; and



1           (6) as appropriate, develop recommendations for the full Legislature to consider.

2           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

3           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,

4 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 67th Legislature.

5                                                  - END -