

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE STATE'S COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE;
6 AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 69TH
7 LEGISLATURE.

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9 WHEREAS, communications technology is advancing rapidly alongside recent federal efforts to boost
10 deployment in Montana; and

11 WHEREAS, Montanans rely on access to high-speed internet and modern communications systems;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the state may lack adequate data to understand the scope of communications
14 infrastructure deficiencies in many regions of the state.

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

18 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
19 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to examine any existing policy
20 issues impacting the accessibility, affordability, security, reliability, and connectivity of the communications
21 network in Montana.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study account for the equity of internet access among
23 communities in Montana.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
25 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
27 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2024.

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

1 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 69th Legislature.

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