

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC VALUE AND COSTS OF WOLVES AND GRIZZLY BEARS AS THEY RELATE TO AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND TRAPPING, AND TOURISM; AND REQUIRING THAT FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 67TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, wolves were reintroduced to the Yellowstone National Park area more than 2 decades ago and are now a recovered species that is managed by the state and available for hunting and trapping; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 grizzly bears live in Montana, and may be a recovered species that is managed by the state in the future; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies estimate the economic value and costs of wolves and grizzly bears as they relate to agriculture, hunting, and tourism, all industries vital to Montana's economy; and

WHEREAS, some argue that wolves and grizzly bears are detrimental to hunting and agriculture because they prey on livestock and game animals, while others contend that businesses related to hunting and tourism are boosted by the presence of the large predators; and

WHEREAS, state management of wolves and grizzly bears should include consideration of reliable economic analysis of the effects of wolves and grizzly bears on the industries of agriculture, hunting, and tourism.

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 or statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, to:

- (1) gather, analyze, and discuss relevant literature;
- (2) invite economists who specialize in the industries of agriculture, hunting, and tourism to address the various aspects of a reliable study of the economic value and costs of wolves and grizzly bears; and
- (3) hold at least one public meeting in both the Yellowstone National Park area and the Glacier National Park area to gather firsthand local perspectives on aspects of the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review



1 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2020.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
3 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 67th Legislature.

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