

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY J. KEANE

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE INFLUENCES ON MONTANA'S GASOLINE PRICES.

WHEREAS, consumers and policymakers need more information on factors that influence gasoline prices throughout Montana; and

WHEREAS, because there is limited information about gasoline prices in Montana, there are questions about whether gasoline prices in Montana are being set in a competitive manner; and

WHEREAS, a study can provide perspective and insight about gasoline prices in Montana.

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 study the influences on Montana's gasoline prices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study:

- (1) review historic and current gasoline prices in Montana;
- (2) analyze changes in gasoline prices over the last 10 years and the different components that contributed to changing prices;
- (3) assess significant gasoline price differences that exist among Montana communities and in neighboring states;
- (4) review information about the state's sources of gasoline, Montana's refinery capacity, and consumer demand;
- (5) evaluate the differences in the wholesale cost of gasoline from various supply sources, transportation costs, retailing costs, and diesel prices; and
- (6) analyze the establishment of gasoline prices in Montana by gasoline fuel suppliers in response to market conditions or other conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study involve stakeholders, including the Department of Labor and Industry, Business Standards Division, gasoline fuel suppliers and retailers, and other interested parties.



