

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

2 INTRODUCED BY J. FULLER

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF STATEWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
6 PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND FUNDING TO ENSURE THE EQUITABILITY OF EMERGENCY
7 MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT MONTANA; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE
8 STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.

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10 WHEREAS, emergency medical services are essential to a well-functioning health system, providing
11 services such as life-saving treatment, patient transport, and community health outreach; and

12 WHEREAS, reliable emergency medical services response throughout Montana is vital to the well-
13 being of residents, workers, and visitors; and

14 WHEREAS, Montana currently lacks a comprehensive and equitable statewide emergency medical
15 services planning, coordination, and funding system under Title 50, chapter 6, MCA, to ensure the reasonable
16 availability of emergency medical services throughout the state; and

17 WHEREAS, rural emergency medical services are strained, with demand increasing due to population
18 growth, changing demographics, and tourism; and

19 WHEREAS, local emergency medical services agencies, particularly those in rural areas, face rising
20 costs that exceed their resources and capabilities, jeopardizing their ability to meet increased demand for
21 emergency medical services and ensure readiness for residents and visitors; and

22 WHEREAS, funding is often inconsistent or rigid, which fails to ensure that the quality and quantity of
23 emergency medical services needed in various parts of the state align with the present and anticipated future
24 demands for services; and

25 WHEREAS, lack of adequate funding or other critical resources has caused and is causing numerous
26 problems, including but not limited to service calls with delayed response time, inadequate resources to provide
27 care, and, in extreme cases, the complete shutdown of a fire department and their related emergency medical
28 services.

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

4 That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee or statutory
5 committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

6 (1) consider the implications of recognizing emergency medical services as a statewide essential
7 service;

8 (2) assess current emergency medical services capabilities relative to present and anticipated
9 future demands for services over the next 5 years;

10 (3) identify areas of the state with a recognized lack of emergency medical services and examine
11 the reasons for the lack of services;

12 (4) review and assess current funding mechanisms available to emergency medical services
13 providers;

14 (5) coordinate with each county and the department of public health and human services to
15 determine the additional resources needed to ensure the timely and appropriate provision of emergency
16 medical services in each county for the upcoming 5 years.

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

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
20 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2026.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
22 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 70th Legislature.

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