



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY EXAMINING WATER REUSE; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Montana's water resources are of exceptional quality and are a valuable resource to the residents of the state; and

WHEREAS, water reuse, also known as water recycling, is a process in which wastewater is purified for a designated beneficial freshwater purpose; and

WHEREAS, the potential uses of recycled water include agricultural, industrial, and municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, water reuse is a tool to promote sustainable and resilient water supplies and protect environmentally sensitive resources; and

WHEREAS, there may exist technical, regulatory, financial, and educational roadblocks preventing the implementation of water reuse programs in Montana; and

WHEREAS, individualizing levels of treatment for specific uses is more cost and energy efficient than a standardized treatment approach; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for water reuse may be underexplored 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 or statutory committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA to:

- (1) examine existing statutes and administrative rules related to water reuse;

- (2) analyze existing reuse infrastructure, including the volume, timing, use, and availability of reused water;
- (3) examine how other states have implemented water reuse in the public and private sectors;
- (4) analyze what industries, except agriculture, and geographic areas in the state currently implement water reuse programs and what industries and geographic areas in the state may benefit from water reuse programs;
- (5) determine what legal, economic, and social barriers exist for industries and communities attempting to implement water reuse programs;
- (6) analyze what economic, environmental, and population factors necessitate the implementation of water reuse programs; and
- (7) if necessary, propose legislation to incentivize and facilitate water reuse programs in the state.

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

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

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HJ 74, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 74

INTRODUCED BY B. CARTER, M. CUNNINGHAM, B. EDWARDS, S. KLAKKEN, J. SECKINGER, P.
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