



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, lack of adequate funding or other critical resources has caused and is causing numerous problems, including but not limited to service calls with delayed response time, inadequate resources to provide

care, and, in extreme cases, the complete shutdown of a fire department and their related emergency medical services.

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, or direct sufficient staff resources to:

- (1) consider the implications of recognizing emergency medical services as a statewide essential service;
- (2) assess current emergency medical services capabilities relative to present and anticipated future demands for services over the next 5 years;
- (3) identify areas of the state with a recognized lack of emergency medical services and examine the reasons for the lack of services;
- (4) review and assess current funding mechanisms available to emergency medical services providers;
- (5) coordinate with each county and the department of public health and human services to determine the additional resources needed to ensure the timely and appropriate provision of emergency medical services in each county for the upcoming 5 years.

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

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,
SJ 13, originated in the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

INTRODUCED BY J. FULLER

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