

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44

INTRODUCED BY Z. WIRTH, B. GILLESPIE, M. YAKAWICH, B. BEARD, S. FITZPATRICK, D. BEDEY, E. BYRNE, P. FIELDER, C. HINKLE, S. KELLY, G. KMETZ, T. MILLETT, B. MITCHELL, M. NIKOLAKAKOS, L. REKSTEN, K. WALSH

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF ENDOCRINE-DISRUPTING CHEMICALS, PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES, AND WATER QUALITY; AND REQUIRING THAT THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE STUDY BE REPORTED TO THE 70TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, human reproduction is declining around the world, affecting men, women, and children; and

WHEREAS, the decline in reproduction is attributed to unhealthy lifestyles and chemicals in the environment; and

WHEREAS, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, such as phthalates, bisphenol A, flame-retardants, and pesticides, interfere with the body's hormonal systems; and

WHEREAS, these endocrine-disrupting chemicals are found in toys, plastic drinking bottles, cleaning supplies, house dust, home furniture, electronics, building materials, fragrances, food, food packaging, personal care products, and drinking water; and

WHEREAS, exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals may contribute to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, asthma, obesity, and early puberty in children; thyroid disorders, breast cancer, diabetes, obesity, and infertility in women; and thyroid disorders, diabetes, obesity, infertility, prostate cancer, and low sperm count in men; and

WHEREAS, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products and may affect human health; and

WHEREAS, PFAS are mobile, persistent, and bioaccumulative and are not known to degrade in the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Quality has preliminarily studied PFAS and noted the

health risks associated with PFAS; and

WHEREAS, statewide solutions should be explored in Montana to reduce or eliminate the potential risks posed by PFAS to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, declining birth rates and increasing life expectancy may create a "demographic time bomb" as future generations struggle to meet the needs and obligations of an older population, thereby reducing economic growth, decreasing tax revenue, and increasing health care costs; and

WHEREAS, declining sperm counts, diminished ovarian reserves, and increasing miscarriage rates could eventually threaten survival of the human race; and

WHEREAS, as a modest first step to combat what could become a global calamity, the Montana Legislature should examine the threats of these chemicals in our drinking water.

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) review how existing state water quality laws and federal acts, including the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, protect water quality in Montana and regulate endocrine-disrupting chemicals;

(2) study the presence of PFAS in Montana, including potential sources of PFAS, sampling and testing methods to identify the presence of PFAS, and routes of human and ecological exposure;

~~(2)(3)~~ analyze research related to the health effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals;

~~(3)(4)~~ determine, if possible, the prevalence of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in Montana; and

~~(4)(5)~~ offer recommendations for future study, rulemaking, or changes to law related to water quality,

PFAS, and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

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,

# Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Zack Wirth - (H) Natural Resources

69th Legislature

Drafter: Jason Mohr,

HJ0044.001.002

1 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 70th Legislature.

2 - END -

AMENDED