

1 \_\_\_\_\_ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 INTRODUCED BY \_\_\_\_\_

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA FOR LEGISLATORS TO OFFSET APPROPRIATIONS IN INTRODUCED BILLS BY IDENTIFYING  
6 THE PROGRAMS FROM WHICH FUNDS ARE TO BE REALLOCATED IN THE SAME BILL.

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8 WHEREAS, the United States has surpassed more than \$36 trillion in national debt, which amounts to  
9 over \$166,000 in debt for each American; and

10 WHEREAS, the federal fiscal situation results in economic uncertainty and recurrent threats of  
11 government shutdown; and

12 WHEREAS, government fiscal responsibility provides American citizens with confidence to engage in  
13 our state and national economies that is beneficial to all; and

14 WHEREAS, now more than ever, having seen national inflation rates fluctuate dramatically over the  
15 past 4 years, even as high as 8% in 2022, fiscal responsibility is necessary not only at the individual level, but  
16 for state and federal government as well; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Montana has engaged in record spending year after year, most recently  
18 evidenced by the Governor's proposed 2-year state budget of \$17.9 billion; and

19 WHEREAS, government spending must be tempered by accountability and reason for the good and  
20 prosperity of all of Montana's citizenry.

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

24 That if a member of the Legislature of the State of Montana introduces a bill with an appropriation or  
25 amends a bill to include an appropriation to authorize the expenditure of money, the bill must also identify a  
26 program or programs from which the newly appropriated funds are to be reallocated to offset the new  
27 expenditure.

28 - END -