



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RECOMMENDING THE LEGISLATURE'S CONSENT TO AND APPROVAL OF THE LONG-RANGE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CAPITOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, for decades the Montana Capitol building has suffered from overcrowding and constrained public access to the legislative process, with the past 20 years seeing exponentially increasing demands on the People's House; and

WHEREAS, with overwhelming support during the 2023 legislative session, the Montana Legislature passed and approved House Bill 856 that defined and allocated current space for the Legislature and the people of Montana in the Capitol and within the Capitol complex; and

WHEREAS, HB 856 also directed the Legislative Council, with consultation by the Legislative Finance Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee, to develop an updated Long-Range Legislative Branch Capitol Development Plan to determine and illustrate current and future Legislative Branch space needs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the long-range plan is to offer nonbinding options and recommendations for the Legislature to provide space needed for the legislative process to work effectively; and

WHEREAS, the long-range plan identified that the functional capacity of the historic Capitol building has been exceeded and that the existing space configuration is interfering with optimal effectiveness of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, the findings in the long-range plan concluded that additional space is needed and identified the following space needs in order of priority: hearing rooms to accommodate debate and public involvement in the legislative process, workspace for elected officials to facilitate legislation and improved public access, workspace for professional support staff, and workspace for temporary staff needed during the legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the long-range plan offers the Legislature a planning and feasibility template to guide the Legislature's long-range capital development decisions; and

WHEREAS, while the long-range plan recommendations indicate that additional space beyond what is currently allocated to the Legislature would be necessary to achieve the optimal space needs, additional study and legislative input will be needed to determine the most appropriate implementation plan going forward.

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

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), that the 69th Montana Legislature consents to and approves the Long-Range Legislative Branch Capitol Development Plan as recommended by the Legislative Council.
- (2) That the 69th Montana Legislature does not consent to or approve any future option as provided for in the Long-Range Legislative Branch Capitol Development Plan to construct a new building to accommodate additional space needs of the Legislature.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
SJ 6, 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. 6

INTRODUCED BY S. VINTON

BY REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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