

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

2 INTRODUCED BY R. LYNCH

3 BY REQUEST OF THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

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5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6 MONTANA SUPPORTING THE JUSTICE COUNTS METRICS.7
8 WHEREAS, Justice Counts is an initiative led by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice
9 Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and more than 21
10 partners to develop and help implement consensus-driven metrics for criminal justice agencies; and11 WHEREAS, the consensus-driven Justice Counts metrics are developed in partnership with a wide
12 range of experts across the criminal justice system; and13 WHEREAS, the Law and Justice Interim Committee studied the collection, improvement, and
14 integration of criminal justice system data during the 2021-2022 interim; and15 WHEREAS, Montana state and local policymakers are often forced to make critical decisions about the
16 safety of their communities and constituents using limited or stale criminal justice data; and17 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature wants to work in conjunction with state and local partners to
18 improve data collection, including the specific consensus-driven metrics proposed in the Justice Counts
19 initiative; and20 WHEREAS, improvements in criminal justice system data collection and dissemination will help
21 Montana policymakers change the current reactionary nature of our criminal justice system to achieve better
22 results by enabling more analysis; and23 WHEREAS, better results include cost savings for the State of Montana and our local governments and
24 better outcomes for offenders, crime victims, and their families; and25 WHEREAS, Justice Counts would help us improve access for our criminal justice system leaders and
26 the public to consistent, timely, and accurate data across the criminal justice system.27
28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF

1 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Montana Legislature supports the Justice Counts ~~Metrics~~ METRICS and urges policymakers
3 throughout the state and local government entities to implement and utilize the metrics and to commit to making
4 the latest criminal justice data available.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE
6 GOVERNOR, THE MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA SUPREME COURT, EACH DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, THE MONTANA
7 ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE IN THE UNITED STATES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

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