



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ADOPTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE RULES.

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

That the following Joint Rules be adopted:

**JOINT RULES OF THE MONTANA  
SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**CHAPTER 1**

**Legislator Remote Participation**

**1-05. Definitions.** As used in these joint rules, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Member" means a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives for the 68th Legislature.
- (2) "Participating remotely", "remotely present", or "participate remotely" means participating by telephone, teleconference, videoconference, or other means.
- (3) "Present" means a member was either physically present and participating in the session or remotely present and participating in the session.

**1-40. Members physically present or remotely present by electronic means.** (1) The Senate and the House may assemble, convene, and conduct the session with members being either physically present or participating remotely. A member is not permitted to participate remotely unless excluded from physical participation based on a decision of the member's caucus leader pursuant to Joint Rule 1-50.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), members who are permitted to participate remotely in the session:

(a) may vote on any question or other matter before the Senate or the House, including committees of the Senate or the House;

(b) have the same privileges, rights, and duties as if the member were physically present, including the right, privilege, and responsibility to cast votes on all questions or other matters brought to a vote;

(c) are considered to have immunity that prevents the member from being questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the Legislature that happens by participating remotely, as guaranteed by Article V, section 8, of the Montana Constitution;

(d) are entitled to receive compensation for remotely participating in the same manner as a legislator member physically participating during the session; and

(e) are considered present and in attendance at the session for all purposes, including for purposes of:

(i) determining a quorum pursuant to Article V, section 10, of the Montana Constitution; and

(ii) being present for the passage of a bill pursuant to Article V, section 11, of the Montana Constitution.

(3) Members who vote remotely are required to use electronic authentication as determined by the Legislative Council to prevent access to voting by anyone other than the member.

(4) The Legislative Services Division shall assist members who are participating remotely with any logistical or technical issues during the session.

**1-50. Participation during session -- permission granted by caucus leader for participating remotely.** (1) A member's caucus leader may allow the member to participate remotely as provided in Joint Rule 1-40 and to vote by proxy, except as provided in subsection (2).

(2) Voting by proxy in third reading may be authorized by a member's caucus leader only when a member is hospitalized. Proxy voting on third reading is discouraged unless a member is physically present and participating in the session or remotely present and participating in the session, because Article V, section 11, of the Montana Constitution requires a member to be "present and voting".

(3) For the purpose of this rule, the caucus leader:

(a) for the majority party in the House is the Speaker of the House, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House, the House Majority Leader, or a Representative designated by a leader in this subsection (3)(a);

(b) for the minority party in the House is the House Minority Leader or a Representative designated by the House Minority Leader;

(c) for the majority party in the Senate is the Senate President, the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Senate Majority Leader, or a Senator designated by a leader in this subsection (3)(c); and

(d) for the minority party in the Senate is the Senate Minority Leader or a Senator designated by the Senate Minority Leader.

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **Administration**

**10-10. Time of meeting.** Each house may order its time of meeting.

**10-20. Legislative day -- duration.** (1) If either house is in session on a given day, that day constitutes a legislative day.

(2) A legislative day for a house ends either 24 hours after that house convenes for the day or at the time the house convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier.

**10-30. Schedules.** The presiding officer of each house shall coordinate its schedule to accommodate the workload of the other house.

**10-40. Adjournment -- recess -- meeting place.** A house may not, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than 3 days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(5)). The procedure for obtaining consent is contained in Joint Rule 20-10.

**10-50. Access of media -- registration -- decorum -- sanctions.** (1) Subject to the presiding officer's discretion on issues of decorum and order, a registered media representative may not be prohibited from photographing, televising, or recording a legislative meeting or hearing.

(2) The presiding officer shall authorize the issuance of cards to media representatives to allow floor access, and media representatives holding the cards are subject to placement on the floor by the presiding officer. The presiding officer may delegate enforcement of this rule to the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House, the respective Sergeant-at-Arms, or the Legislative Information Officer. The privilege may be revoked or suspended for a violation of decorum and order as agreed to by the media representative upon application for registration.

(3) Registered media representatives may be subject to seating in designated areas. Overflow access will be in the gallery.

**10-60. Conflict of interest.** A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the Legislature shall disclose the fact to the house to which the member belongs.

**10-70. Telephone calls and internet access.** (1) Use of a state telephone while the Legislature is in session or while the member is in travel status is considered official legislative business. This includes but is not limited to calls made to constituencies, places of business, and family members. A member's access to the internet through a permissible server is a proper use of the state communication system if the use is for legislative business or is within the scope of permissible use of a state telephone.

(2) Session staff, including aides, may use state telephones if specifically authorized to do so by their legislative sponsor or supervisor. Sponsoring members and supervisors are accountable for use of state telephones and internet access by their staff, including aides, and may not authorize others to use state phones or state servers to access the internet.

(3) Permanent staff of the Legislature shall comply with executive branch rules applying to the use of state telephones.

(4) For purposes of this section, "state telephone" or "state phone" means a landline telephone or other telephone provided by the state.

**10-80. Joint employees.** The presiding officers of each house, acting together, shall:

- (1) hire joint employees; and
- (2) review a dispute or complaint involving the competency or decorum of a joint employee, and dismiss, suspend, or retain the employee.

**10-85. Discrimination, harassment, and retaliation prohibited -- adoption of policy.** (1) Legislators, legislative employees, and all participants in the legislative process have the right to work free of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation when performing services in furtherance of legislative responsibilities, whether the offender is an employer, employee, or legislator.

(2) The policy of the Montana Legislature prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, as recommended by the Legislative Council and approved by the Legislature by virtue of adoption of these joint rules, must be shared with members and staff during orientation and training and published separately as an appendix to the Joint Rules.

**10-100. Legislative Services Division.** (1) The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall serve both houses as required.

(2) Staff members shall:

- (a) maintain personnel files for legislative employees; and
  - (b) prepare payrolls and prepare a monthly financial report.
- (3) The Legislative Services Division shall train rostrum staff for both houses.

**10-120. Engrossing and enrolling staff -- duties.** (1) The Legislative Services Division shall provide all engrossing and enrolling staff.

(2) The duties of the engrossing and enrolling staff are:

(a) to engross or enroll any bill or resolution delivered to them within 48 hours after it has been received, unless further time is granted in writing by the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated; and

(b) to correct clerical errors, absent the objection of the sponsor of a bill, resolution, or amendment and the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives in any bill or amendment originating in the house by which the Clerk or Secretary is employed. The following kinds of clerical errors may be corrected:

- (i) errors in spelling;
- (ii) errors in numbering sections;
- (iii) additions or deletions of underlining or lines through matter to be stricken;
- (iv) material copied incorrectly from the Montana Code Annotated;
- (v) errors in outlining or in internal references;
- (vi) an error in a title caused by an amendment;
- (vii) an error in a catchline caused by an amendment;
- (viii) errors in references to the Montana Code Annotated; and
- (ix) other nonconformities of an amendment with Bill Drafting Manual form.

(3) The engrossing and enrolling staff shall give notice in writing of the clerical correction to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, who shall give notice to the sponsor of the bill or amendment. The form must be filed in the office of the amendments coordinator. A party receiving notice may register an objection to the correction by filing the objection in writing with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House by the end of the next legislative day following receipt of the notice. The Senate or House shall vote on whether or not to uphold the objection. If the objection is upheld, the Secretary of the

Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division, and the engrossing staff shall change the bill to remove the correction or corrections to which the objection was made.

(4) For the purposes of this rule, "engrossing" means placing amendments in a bill.

**10-130. Bills -- sponsorship -- style -- format.** (1) A bill must be sponsored by a member of the Legislature.

(2) A bill must be formatted electronically with numbered lines and:

(a) printed on paper with numbered lines;

(b) numbered at the foot of each page (except page 1);

(c) backed with a page of substantial material that includes spaces for notations for tracking the progress of the bill; and

(d) introduced. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

(3) In a section amending an existing statute, matter to be stricken out must be indicated with a line through the words or part to be deleted, and new matter must be underlined.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a bill must be stated in the title.

(b) (i) Sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a legislative referendum must be stated in the title unless the inclusion of those sections in the title would cause the title to cumulatively exceed a 100-word limit.

(ii) If the inclusion of sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a legislative referendum title would cause the title to cumulatively exceed 100 words, the title must include those sections that do not exceed the 100-word limit and include a reference to the total number of additional sections listed in the body of the bill that are excluded from the title due to the 100-word limit. Those additional sections excluded from the title must be listed in a section within the body of the bill after the enacting clause.

(5) Introduced bills must be posted online and may be reproduced on white paper and distributed to members.

(6) (a) A legal review note or analysis produced by the Legislative Services Division Legal Services Office must be attached to an introduced bill and posted on the Legislative Branch website.

(b) After a legal review note has been posted for an introduced bill, if the bill is later amended and the primary sponsor of the bill believes the amendment resolves the potential legal issues cited in the legal review note, the primary sponsor may request that the Legislative Services Division Legal Services Office revise the posted legal review note to include a statement from the primary sponsor that the adopted amendment has resolved the potential legal issues cited in the legal review note.

(7) Prior to submitting legislation for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator may be added as a cosponsor by an in-person request, an electronic message, a phone communication, or a cosponsor form. If a printed cosponsor form is used, a legislator must sign or initial a cosponsor form supplied upon request by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House in order to be added as a cosponsor. A legislator may also sign on the front page of the legislation.

(8) (a) Within 2 days from the date that the chief sponsor signs and accepts legislation from the Legislative Services Division and prior to submitting legislation to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator shall sign the cosponsor form attached to the legislation in order to be added as a cosponsor.

(b) (i) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b)(ii), after legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first house committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

(ii) A Senate chief sponsor may not remove a cosponsor.

**10-140. Voting on bills -- constitutional amendments.** (1) A bill may not become a law except by vote of the constitutionally required majority of all the members present and voting in each house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)). On final passage, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names of those voting entered on the journal (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)).

(2) Any vote in one house on a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote.

(3) This rule does not prevent a committee from tabling a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana.

**10-150. Recording and publication of voting.** (1) Every vote of each member on each substantive

question in the Legislature, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made available to the public. On final passage of any bill or joint resolution, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(2) (a) Roll call votes must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal on adopting an adverse committee report and on those motions made in Committee of the Whole to:

- (i) amend;
- (ii) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (iii) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence; or
- (iv) indefinitely postpone.

(b) The text of all proposed amendments in Committee of the Whole must be recorded.

(3) A roll call vote must be taken on nonsubstantive questions on the request of two members who may, on any vote, request that the ayes and noes be spread upon the journal.

(4) Roll call votes and other votes that are to be made public but are not specifically required to be spread upon the journal must be entered in the audio recording log of the appropriate committee or of the appropriate house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)). The official record of a committee meeting is the audio recording of the meeting, and an audio recording log must also be kept that includes but is not limited to:

- (a) the date, time, and place of the meeting;
- (b) a list of the individual members of the public body, agency, or organization who were in attendance;
- (c) all matters proposed, discussed, or decided; and
- (d) at the request of any member, a record of votes by individual members for any votes taken.

**10-160. Journal.** Each house shall:

(1) supply the Legislative Services Division with the contents of the daily journal to be stored on an automated system;

(2) examine its journal and order correction of any errors; and

(3) make a daily journal available to all members.

**10-170. Journals -- authentication -- availability.** (1) The journal of the Senate must be authenticated by the signatures of the President and the Secretary of the Senate, and the journal of the House of Representatives must be authenticated by the signatures of the Speaker and the Chief Clerk of the House.



(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make the completed journals electronically available to the public.

## **CHAPTER 20**

### **Relations With Other House**

**20-10. Consent for adjournment or recess.** As required by Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, the consent of the other house is required for adjournment or recess for more than 3 calendar days. Consent for adjournment is obtained by having the house wishing to adjourn send a message to the other house and having the receiving house vote favorably on the request. The receiving house shall inform the requesting house of its consent or lack of consent. Consent is not required on or after the 87th legislative day.

## **CHAPTER 30**

### **Committees**

**30-05. Remote and in-person public testimony before a committee.** (1) Except as provided for in subsection (2), and subject to provisions of H30-60 and S30-80, remote or in-person testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee.

(2) If a remote technology system failure prevents a person from providing remote testimony, the person may submit written electronic testimony for the committee's official record.

**30-10. Joint committee chair -- exception.** Except as provided in Joint Rule 30-50 concerning the joint meetings of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the chair of the Senate committee is the chair of all joint committees.

**30-20. Voting in joint committees -- exception.** (1) Except for Rules Committees and conference committees, a member of a joint committee votes individually and not by the house to which the committee member belongs.

(2) Because the Rules Committees and conference committees are joint meetings of separate committees, in those committees the committees from each house vote separately. A majority of each committee shall agree before any action may be taken, unless otherwise specified by individual house rules.

**30-30. Conference committees -- subject matter restrictions.** (1) (a) (i) If either house requests a conference committee and appoints a committee for the purpose of discussing an amendment on which the two

houses cannot agree, the other house shall appoint a committee for the same purpose.

(ii) (A) For Senate legislation, the President shall appoint the primary sponsor to the applicable requested conference committee.

(B) For House legislation, the Speaker shall appoint the primary sponsor to the applicable requested conference committee.

(b) Subject to subsection (4), the time and place of all conference committee meetings must be agreed upon by their chairs and announced from the rostrum. This announcement is in order at any time. Failure to make this announcement does not affect the validity of the legislation being considered.

(2) A conference committee, having conferred, shall report to the respective houses the result of its conference. Subject to subsection (4), a conference committee shall confine itself to consideration of the disputed amendment. The committee may recommend:

- (a) acceptance or rejection of each disputed amendment in its entirety; or
- (b) further amendment of the disputed amendment.

(3) (a) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs, appointments must be made in the same manner as provided in subsection (1). Subject to subsection (4), a free conference committee may discuss and propose amendments to a bill in its entirety and is not confined to a particular amendment. However, a free conference committee is limited to consideration of amendments that are within the scope of the title of the introduced bill.

(b) A free conference committee may not take executive action on an amendment to a bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation act that does not directly and substantively address the subject of the bill.

(4) A meeting of a conference committee or free conference committee must be conducted as an open meeting, and an audio recording log of the meeting must be kept. Committees are encouraged to provide at least 24 hours' notice to members of the committee and the public. A committee shall conduct a hearing with the opportunity for public comment for the purpose of commenting on proposed amendments or potential amendments to the bill.

**30-40. Conference committee -- enrolling.** A conference committee report must give clerical instructions for a corrected reference bill and for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

**30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills.** (1) All general appropriation bills

must first be considered by a joint subcommittee composed of designated members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, and then by each committee separately.

(2) Joint meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Claims Committee must be held upon call of the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who is chair of the joint committee.

(3) The committee chair of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee or of the House Appropriations Committee may be a voting member in the joint subcommittees if:

- (a) either house has fewer members on the joint subcommittees;
- (b) the chair represents the house with fewer members on the subcommittees; and
- (c) the chair is present for the vote at the time that a question is called. A vote may not be held open to facilitate voting by a chair.

**30-60. Estimation of revenue.** (1) The Revenue Interim Committee shall introduce a House joint resolution for the purpose of estimating revenue that may be available for appropriation by the Legislature.

(2) (a) The committee must have prepared by December 1 for introduction during each regular session of the Legislature in which a revenue bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of revenue projected to be available for legislative appropriation.

(b) The committee may prepare for introduction during a special session of the Legislature in which a revenue bill or an appropriation bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of projected revenue. The revenue estimate is considered a subject specified in the call of a special session.

**30-70. Appointment of interim committees.** (1) During an interim when the Legislature is not in session, the committees listed in subsection (2) are the interim committees of the Legislature. They are empowered to sit as committees and may act in their respective areas of responsibility.

- (2) (a) The following are interim committees of the Legislature:
- (i) Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee;
  - (ii) Economic Affairs Interim Committee;
  - (iii) Education Interim Committee;
  - (iv) Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee;
  - (v) Law and Justice Interim Committee;

- (vi) Local Government Interim Committee;
- (vii) Revenue Interim Committee;
- (viii) State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee;
- (ix) State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee;
- (x) Transportation Interim Committee; and
- (xi) Water Policy Interim Committee.

(b) For the purposes of this rule, the Environmental Quality Council is also considered an interim committee.

(3) The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate are ex officio voting members of each interim committee for the sole purpose of breaking a tie vote on a question before an interim committee involving an interim committee objection to an administrative rule pursuant to Title 2, chapter 4, MCA.

(4) Fifty percent of interim committees must be selected to the extent possible from the following legislative standing committees:

(a) Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee:

- (i) Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee;
  - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
  - (iii) House Human Services Committee; and
  - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (b) Economic Affairs Interim Committee:
- (i) Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee;
  - (ii) Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee;
  - (iii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
  - (iv) Senate Energy Committee;
  - (v) House Agriculture Committee;
  - (vi) House Business and Labor Committee;
  - (vii) House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee; and
  - (viii) House Appropriations Committee;
- (c) Education Interim Committee:

- (i) Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee;
- (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (iii) House Education Committee; and
- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (d) Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee:
  - (i) Senate Energy Committee;
  - (ii) House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee;
  - (iii) House Appropriations Committee; and
  - (iv) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (e) Law and Justice Interim Committee:
  - (i) Senate Judiciary Committee;
  - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
  - (iii) House Judiciary Committee; and
  - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (f) Local Government Interim Committee:
  - (i) Senate Local Government Committee;
  - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
  - (iii) House Local Government Committee; and
  - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (g) Revenue Interim Committee:
  - (i) Senate Taxation Committee;
  - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
  - (iii) House Taxation Committee; and
  - (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (h) State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee:
  - (i) Senate State Administration Committee;
  - (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
  - (iii) House State Administration Committee; and

- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (i) State-Tribal Relations Committee:
- (i) Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee;
- (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (iii) House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee; and
- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (j) Transportation Interim Committee:
- (i) Senate Highways and Transportation Committee;
- (ii) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (iii) House Transportation Committee; and
- (iv) House Appropriations Committee;
- (k) Water Policy Interim Committee:
- (i) Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee;
- (ii) Senate Natural Resources Committee;
- (iii) Senate Fish and Game Committee;
- (iv) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
- (v) House Agriculture Committee;
- (vi) House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee;
- (vii) House Natural Resources Committee; and
- (viii) House Appropriations Committee.

**30-80. Appointment of committees other than standing or statutory interim committees.**

Members of committees other than standing or statutory interim committees shall be appointed in accordance with the rules of each house.

## **CHAPTER 40**

### **Legislation**

**40-10. Amendment to state constitution.** A bill must be used to propose an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana. The bill is not subject to the veto of the Governor (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10(1)).

**40-20. Appropriation bills -- introduction in House -- feed bill.** (1) All appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

(2) Appropriation bills for the operation of the Legislature must be introduced by the chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

(3) (a) The provisions of a bill that implements provisions of a general appropriation act must directly and substantively relate to a corresponding provision of the general appropriation act.

(b) (i) When a bill that implements provisions of a general appropriation act is transmitted from the Senate to the House for concurrence, the House may refer the bill to the House Appropriations Committee for a joint meeting with the appropriate house standing committee for public review and consideration prior to action by the House Committee of the Whole on second reading.

(ii) When a bill that implements provisions of a general appropriation act is transmitted from the House to the Senate for concurrence, the Senate may refer the bill to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee for a joint meeting with the appropriate Senate standing committee for public review and consideration prior to action by the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the Senate Committee of the Whole on second reading. The appropriate standing committee may not take executive action on the bill other than making recommendations to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee.

**40-30. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), a statute takes effect on October 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(2) A law appropriating public funds for a public purpose takes effect on July 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(3) A statute providing for the taxation or imposition of a fee on motor vehicles takes effect on the first day of January following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(4) A joint resolution takes effect on its passage unless a different time is prescribed in the joint resolution.

**40-40. Bill requests and introduction -- limits and procedures -- drafting priority -- agency and committee bills.** (1) Prior to a regular session, a person entitled to serve in that session, referred to as a "member", or a legislative committee is entitled to request bill drafting services from the Legislative Services

Division. Deadlines for requesting certain types of bills during a legislative session are contained in Joint Rule 40-50.

(a) Prior to 5 p.m. on December 5 preceding a regular session of the Legislature, a member may request an unlimited number of bills and resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division for introduction in the regular session.

(b) After 5 p.m. on December 5, a member may request no more than seven bills or resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division. At least five of the seven bills or resolutions must be requested before the regular session convenes.

(c) After December 5, a member, in the member's discretion, may grant to any other member any of the remaining bill or resolution requests the granting member has not used. A bill requested by an individual may not be transferred to another legislator but may be introduced by another legislator. The requestor must take delivery of the bill either in person or by electronic means and sign, either in person or by electronic means, a receipt indicating delivery of the bill and may either introduce the bill or give the bill to another legislator for introduction.

(d) These limitations on bill and resolution requests do not apply to:

- (i) Code Commissioner bills;
- (ii) a bill or resolution requested by a standing committee; and
- (iii) a bill or resolution requested by a member at the request of a newly elected state official if so designated.

(2) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsections (2)(a)(ii) through (2)(a)(iv) and (2)(b), the staff of the Legislative Services Division shall work on bill draft requests in the order received.

(ii) Except as provided in subsection (2)(a)(iii), after a member has requested the drafting of five bills, the sixth bill request and all subsequent bill requests of that member must receive a lower drafting priority than all other bills of members not in excess of five per member.

(iii) On or before the 5th legislative day, a legislator may reprioritize two of the legislator's top five bill draft requests. A legislator may not reprioritize a bill draft request if the legislator has been notified that staff has initiated drafting of the request.

(iv) (A) The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate may each direct the staff of the



Legislative Services Division to assign a higher priority to 38 draft requests. The minority leader of the House and the minority leader of the Senate may each direct the staff of the Legislative Services Division to assign a higher priority to 20 draft requests. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall assign a higher priority to any bill draft request when jointly directed by the President of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leader of the House.

(B) The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate may each request 30 leadership bill drafts. The minority leader of the House and the minority leader of the Senate may each request 20 leadership bill drafts.

(b) Except for bill draft requests described in subsection (1)(d)(iii), if a draft bill has not been received by the Legislative Services Division by November 15 for a bill by request of an agency or entity, the draft loses its priority under this rule.

(3) Bills and resolutions must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Services Division prior to introduction for proper format, style, and legal form. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall store bills on the automated bill drafting equipment and shall post them electronically or print and deliver them to the requesting members. The original bill back must be signed to indicate review by the Legislative Services Division. The electronic version of the bill must include an indication of review by the Legislative Services Division. A bill may not be introduced unless it is so signed or indicated.

(4) (a) During a session, a bill may be introduced by endorsing it with or indicating the name of a member and presenting it to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate. Bills or joint resolutions may be sponsored jointly by Senate and House members. A jointly sponsored bill must be introduced in the house in which the member whose name appears or is indicated first on the bill is a member. The chief joint sponsor's name must appear immediately to the right of the first sponsor's name, and the chief sponsor may not be changed. Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), in each session of the Legislature, bills, joint resolutions, and simple resolutions must be numbered consecutively in separate series in the order of their receipt.

(b) The first 15 House bills may be reserved for preintroduced bills.

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b)(ii), any bill requested by an interim or statutory legislative committee or on behalf of an administrative or executive agency or department through an interim or

statutory committee must be so indicated by placing after the names of the sponsors the phrase "By Request of the.....(Name of committee or agency)". The phrase may not be added to an introduced bill by amendment.

The phrase may not be placed on a bill unless requested by a statutory or interim committee prior to the convening of the session. Unless requested by an individual member, a bill draft request submitted at the request of an agency must be submitted to, reviewed by, and requested by the appropriate interim or statutory committee. Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), an agency or committee bill request must be preintroduced or the request is canceled. Preintroduction of an agency, committee, or individual legislator's bill must occur no later than 5 p.m. on December 15th prior to the convening of a regular legislative session. Preintroduction is accomplished when the Legislative Services Division receives a signed preintroduction form.

(b) (i) The preintroduction requirement does not apply to an office held by an elected official during the official's first year in that office or to bills requested by a joint select or joint special committee appointed prior to the convening of the legislative session to address a specific issue. Bills requested under this subsection (5)(b) may include the phrase "By Request of.....(Name of official or committee)".

(ii) An official newly elected to a statewide office may request in writing that the Legislative Services Division remove the phrase "By Request of....." from bills requested by the outgoing official of that office.

(6) Bills may be preintroduced, numbered, posted online, and reproduced prior to a legislative session by the staff of the Legislative Services Division. Actual signatures, facsimile signatures (5-2-105, MCA), or electronic signatures, along with verified email addresses, of persons entitled to serve as members in the ensuing session may be obtained on a consent form from the Legislative Services Division and the sponsor's name printed or listed on the bill. Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill. These names will be forwarded to the Legislative Services Division to be included on the face of the printed bill or included on the electronic version of the bill following standing committee approval.

**40-50. Schedules for drafting requests and bill introduction.** (1) The following schedule must be followed for submission of drafting requests.

Request Deadline

5:00 P.M.

Legislative Day

• General Bills and Resolutions	12
• Revenue Bills	17
• Committee Bills and Resolutions/Leadership General Bills and Resolutions	36
• Committee Revenue Bills and Bills Proposing Referenda/Leadership Revenue Bills and Bills Proposing Referenda	56
• Committee Bills and Leadership Bills implementing provisions of a general appropriation act	56
• Interim study resolutions	60
• Appropriation Bills	45
• Resolutions to express confirmation of appointments	No Deadline
• Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules	No Deadline

(2) (a) A bill or resolution must be introduced at least 6 legislative days prior to the applicable transmittal deadline as provided in Joint Rule 40-200 except for:

- (i) a session committee bill, resolution, or referenda;
- (ii) a bill repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules;
- (iii) a joint resolution advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules;

or

- (iv) a resolution expressing confirmation.

(b) Bills and resolutions must be introduced within 2 legislative days after delivery. Failure to comply with the introduction deadline results in the bill draft being canceled.

**40-60. Joint resolutions.** (1) A joint resolution must be adopted by both houses and is not approved

by the Governor. It may be used to:

- (a) express desire, opinion, sympathy, or request of the Legislature;
  - (b) recognize relations with other governments, sister states, political subdivisions, or similar governmental entities;
  - (c) request, but not require, a legislative entity to conduct an interim study;
  - (d) adopt, amend, or repeal the joint rules;
  - (e) approve construction of a state building under section 18-2-102 or 20-25-302, MCA;
  - (f) deal with disasters and emergencies under Title 10, specifically as provided in sections 10-3-302(3), 10-3-303(3), 10-3-303(4), and 10-3-505(5), MCA;
  - (g) submit a negotiated settlement under section 39-31-305(3), MCA;
  - (h) declare or terminate an energy emergency under section 90-4-310, MCA;
  - (i) ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution;
  - (j) advise or request the repeal, amendment, or adoption of a rule in the Administrative Rules of Montana; or
  - (k) approve the organization of a new community college district under section 20-15-209, MCA.
- (2) A joint resolution may not be used for purposes of congratulating or recognizing an individual or group achievement. Recognition of individual or group achievements is handled on special orders of the day.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in these rules or The Constitution of the State of Montana, a joint resolution is treated in all respects as a bill.
- (4) A copy of every joint resolution must be transmitted after adoption to the Secretary of State by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

**40-65. Appropriation required for bills requesting interim studies.** (1) A bill including a request for an interim study may not be transmitted to the Governor unless the bill contains an appropriation sufficient to conduct the study. The bill must include a contingent voidness section that would void the bill if an appropriation is not included. A fiscal note may be requested for a bill requesting an interim study if the appropriation does not appear to be sufficient.

(2) A Senator may introduce a bill that includes a request for an interim study in the Senate without an appropriation, but the bill may not be transmitted to the Governor unless the bill contains an appropriation

added in the House that is sufficient to conduct the study.

**40-70. Bills with same purpose -- vetoes.** (1) A bill may not be introduced or received in a house after that house, during that session, has finally rejected a bill designed to accomplish the same purpose, except with the approval of the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(2) A bill may be designated as identical to another bill only by the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(3) Failure to override a veto does not constitute final rejection.

**40-80. Reproduction of full statute required.** A statute may not be amended or its provisions extended by reference to its title only, but the statute section that is amended or extended must be reproduced or published at length.

**40-90. Bills -- original purpose.** A law may not be passed except by bill. A bill may not be so altered or amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)).

**40-95. Amendment processing.** (1) Amendments to bills and resolutions are drafted by Legislative Services Division staff.

(2) All amendments must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Services Division for proper format, style, and legal form.

(3) Amendments requested and approved by a legislator on a bill that is in committee or is scheduled for second reading in the Committee of the Whole must be posted online.

**40-100. Fiscal notes.** (1) All bills reported out of a committee of the Legislature, including interim committees, having a potential effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state, local governments, or public schools, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, must include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of the fiscal effect. The Legislative Services Division staff shall indicate at the top of each bill prepared for introduction that a fiscal note may be necessary under this rule. Fiscal notes must be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who, at the time of introduction or after adoption of substantive amendments to an introduced bill, shall determine the need for the note, based on the Legislative Services Division staff recommendation.

(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make available an electronic copy of any bill for which it has

been determined a fiscal note may be necessary to the Budget Director immediately after the bill has been prepared for introduction and delivered to the requesting member. The Budget Director may proceed with the preparation of a fiscal note in anticipation of a subsequent formal request. A bill with financial implications for a local government or school district must comply with subsection (4).

(3) The Budget Director, in cooperation with the governmental entity or entities affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note. Except as provided in subsection (4), the Budget Director shall return the fiscal note within 6 days unless further time is granted by the presiding officer or committee making the request, based upon a written statement from the Budget Director that additional time is necessary to properly prepare the note.

(4) (a) A bill that may require a local government or school district to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that requires the direct expenditure of additional funds without a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility in violation of section 1-2-112 or 1-2-113, MCA, must be accompanied, at the time that the bill is presented for introduction, by an estimate of all direct and indirect fiscal impacts on the local government or school district. The estimate of the fiscal impacts must be prepared by the Budget Director in cooperation with a local government or school district affected by the bill.

(b) The Budget Director has 10 days to prepare the estimate. Upon completion of the estimate, the Budget Director shall submit it to the presiding officer and the chief sponsor of the bill.

(5) A completed fiscal note must be submitted by the Budget Director to the presiding officer who requested it. The presiding officer shall notify the bill's chief sponsor of the completed fiscal note and request the chief sponsor's actual or electronic signature. The chief sponsor has 1 legislative day after delivery to review the fiscal note and to discuss the findings with the Budget Director, if necessary. After the legislative day has elapsed, all fiscal notes having a potential effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability must be reproduced for the members of the committee hearing the bill and, if the bill is reported out of committee, placed on the members' desks, either with or without the chief sponsor's actual or electronic signature.

(6) A fiscal note must, if possible, show in dollar amounts:

- (a) the estimated increase or decrease in revenues or expenditures;
- (b) costs that may be absorbed without additional funds; and
- (c) long-range financial implications.

(7) The fiscal note may not include any comment or opinion relative to merits of the bill. However, technical or mechanical defects in the bill may be noted.

(8) (a) A fiscal note also may be requested, with the approval of the presiding officer, on a bill and on an amended bill by:

(i) a committee considering the bill;

(ii) a majority of the members of the house in which the bill is to be considered, at the time of second reading; or

(iii) the chief sponsor.

(b) With the approval of the presiding officer, a committee may request a revised fiscal note on committee-approved amendments to a bill not reported out of committee by passing a motion to postpone action on the bill pending a revised fiscal note.

(9) The Budget Director shall prepare and deliver an amended fiscal note on an amended bill within 3 days of the request by the presiding officer; otherwise the bill may proceed without the updated fiscal note.

(10) The Budget Director shall make available on request to any member of the Legislature all background information used in developing a fiscal note.

(11) If a bill requires a fiscal note, the bill may not be reported from a committee for second reading unless the bill is accompanied by the fiscal note.

(12) (a) If the budget director fails to prepare and submit a fiscal note in a timely fashion in accordance with this rule, the presiding officer of each house may request the preparation of a fiscal note by the Legislative Fiscal Division, which shall prepare a fiscal note for the bill.

(b) The presiding officer of the originating chamber shall designate which fiscal note accompanies the bill or is used in the preparation of the status sheet if more than one fiscal note is prepared.

**40-110. Sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal.** (1) If a sponsor elects to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, the sponsor shall make the election as provided and return the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form to the presiding officer within 4 days of the election. The form must identify the bill number, the sponsor of the bill, the date prepared, the version of the fiscal note being rebutted, the reasons the sponsor disagrees with the fiscal note, the items or assumptions in the fiscal note that the sponsor believes are incorrect, and the sponsor's estimate of the fiscal impact, if an estimate is available.

(2) The presiding officer may grant additional time to the sponsor for preparation of the sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal.

(3) Upon receipt of the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form, the presiding officer shall refer it to the committee hearing the bill. If the bill is printed, the form must be identified as a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, reproduced, and placed on the members' desks. The sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal must be posted online with the bill materials.

(4) The House and the Senate shall provide forms for preparation of sponsors' fiscal note rebuttals and shall post the completed sponsors' fiscal note rebuttals online and may also print the completed sponsors' fiscal note rebuttal forms on a different color paper than the fiscal notes prepared by the Budget Director.

**40-120. Substitute bills.** (1) A committee may recommend that every clause in a bill be changed and that entirely new material be substituted so long as the new material is relevant to the title and subject of the original bill. The substitute bill is considered an amendment and not a new bill.

(2) The proper form of reporting a substitute bill by a committee is to propose amendments to strike out all of the material following the enacting clause, to substitute the new material, and to recommend any necessary changes in the title of the bill.

(3) If a committee report is adopted that recommends a substitute for a bill originating in the other house, the substitute bill must be printed and reproduced.

**40-130. Reading of bills.** Prior to passage, a bill, other than a bill requested by a joint select or joint special committee as provided in 40-40(5)(b), must be read three times in the house in which it is under consideration. It may be read either by title or by summary of title. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

**40-140. Second reading -- bill reproduction.** (1) If the majority of a house adopts a recommendation for the passage of a bill originating in that house after the bill has been returned from a committee with amendments, the bill and its version status must be posted online and, if printed, the bill must be reproduced on yellow paper with all amendments incorporated into the copies.

(2) If a bill has been returned from a committee without amendments, an indication must be made online on the bill status page. If the bill is printed, only the first sheet must be reproduced on yellow paper, and the remainder of the text may be incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.



(3) A bill requested by and heard by a joint select or joint special committee, as provided in 40-40(5)(b), may be referred directly to second reading. If the bill is passed by the house of origin, the bill must be transmitted to the other house, and if the bill was not amended, it may be placed on second reading without the need for referral to a committee.

**40-150. Engrossing.** (1) When a bill has been reported favorably by Committee of the Whole of the house in which it originated and the report has been adopted, the bill must be engrossed if the bill is amended. Committee of the Whole amendments must be included in the engrossed bill. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent to printing. The bill must be placed on the agenda for third reading on the legislative day after receipt.

(2) Copies of the engrossed bill must be available to members electronically. If also printed, the engrossed bill must be reproduced on blue paper. If a bill is unamended by the Committee of the Whole and contains no clerical errors, it is not required to be reprinted. If printed, only the first sheet must be reproduced on blue paper, with the remainder of the text incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(3) If a bill is amended by a standing committee in the second house, the amendments must be engrossed and the engrossed bill posted online. If the engrossed bill is also printed, the amendments must be included in a tan-colored bill and distributed in the second house for second reading consideration. If the bill is amended in Committee of the Whole, the amendments must be engrossed and the engrossed bill posted online. If the engrossed bill is also printed, the amendments must be included in a salmon-colored reference bill and distributed in the second house for third reading. If the bill passes on third reading, the reference bill must be posted online and, if printed, copies distributed in the original house. The original house may request from the second house a specified number of copies of the amendments to be printed.

**40-160. Enrolling.** (1) When a bill has passed both houses, it must be enrolled. An original and one duplicate printed copy of the bill must be enrolled, free from all errors, with a margin of two inches at the top and one inch on each side. In sections amending existing statutes, new matter must be underlined and deleted matter must be shown as stricken. The enrolled bill must be posted online.

(2) When the enrolling is completed, the bill must be examined by the sponsor.

(3) The correctly enrolled bill must be delivered to the presiding officer of the house in which the bill

originated. The presiding officer shall sign the original and one copy of the bill not later than the next legislative day after it has been reported correctly enrolled, unless the bill is delivered on the last legislative day, in which case the presiding officer shall sign it that day. The fact of signing must be announced by the presiding officer and entered upon the journal no later than the next legislative day. At any time after the report of a bill correctly enrolled and before the signing, if a member signifies a desire to examine the bill, the member must be permitted to do so. The bill then must be transmitted to the other house where the same procedure must be followed.

(4) A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature by the 90th day may be:

(a) enrolled;

(b) clerically corrected by the presiding officers, if necessary;

(c) signed by the presiding officers; and

(d) delivered to the Governor or, in the case of a bill proposing a referendum, to the Secretary of State, not later than 5 working days after the 90th legislative day.

(5) All journal entries authorized under this rule must be entered on the journal for the 90th day.

(6) The original and one copy signed by the presiding officer of each house must be presented to the Governor or the Secretary of State, as applicable, in return for a receipt. A report then must be made to the house of the day of the presentation, which must be entered on the journal.

(7) The original must be filed with the Secretary of State. A signed copy with a chapter number assigned pursuant to section 5-11-204, MCA, must be filed with the Legislative Services Division.

**40-170. Amendment by second house.** (1) Amendments to a bill by the second house may not be further amended by the house in which the bill originated, but must be either accepted or rejected. A bill amended by the second house when the effect of the combined amendments is to return the bill to the form that the bill passed the house in which the bill originated is not considered to have been amended and need not be returned to the house of origin for acceptance or rejection of the amendments. If the amendments are rejected, a conference committee may be requested by the house in which the bill originated. If the amendments are accepted and the bill is of a type requiring more than a majority vote for passage, the bill again must be placed on third reading in the house of origin.

(2) The vote on third reading after concurrence in amendments is the vote of the house of origin that

must be used to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

**40-180. Final action on a bill.** (1) When a bill being heard by the second house has received its third reading or has been rejected, the second house shall transmit it as soon as possible to the original house with notice of the second house's action.

(2) A bill that reduces revenue and that contains a contingent voidness provision may not be transmitted to the Governor unless there is an identified corresponding reduction in an appropriation contained in the general appropriations act.

**40-190. Transmittal of bills between houses -- referral -- hearing.** (1) Each house shall transmit to the other with any bill all relevant papers.

(2) When a House bill is transmitted to the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall give a dated receipt for the bill to the Chief Clerk of the House. When a Senate bill is transmitted to the House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House shall give a dated receipt to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Transmitted bills must be referred to committee and scheduled for hearing.

**40-200. Transmittal deadlines -- two-thirds vote requirement.** (1) (a) A bill or amendment transmitted after the deadline established in this subsection (1) may be considered by the receiving house only upon approval of two-thirds of its members present and voting. If the receiving house does not so vote, the bill or amendment must be held pending in the house to which it was transmitted.

(b) (i) A bill, except for an appropriation bill, a revenue bill, a bill proposing a referendum, a general joint resolution, an interim study resolution, or amendments considered by joint committee, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 48th legislative day.

(ii) Amendments, except to appropriation bills, committee bills implementing the general appropriations bill, the revenue estimating resolution, interim study resolutions, bills proposing referenda, and revenue bills, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 73rd legislative day.

(c) (i) Revenue bills, bills proposing referenda, and general joint resolutions must be transmitted to the other house on or before the 67th legislative day.

(ii) Amendments to revenue bills, bills proposing referenda, and general joint resolutions, received from the other house, must be transmitted to the house of origin on or before the 80th legislative day.

(iii) A revenue bill is one that either increases or decreases revenue by enacting, eliminating,

increasing, or decreasing taxes or fees.

(d) (i) Appropriation bills and any bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation bill must be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 69th legislative day. A fund transfer within the state treasury is not an appropriation for purposes of this section.

(ii) Senate amendments to appropriation bills must be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 80th legislative day.

(2) (a) A joint resolution introduced pursuant to 5-5-227, MCA, for the purpose of estimating revenue available for appropriation by the Legislature must be transmitted to the Senate no later than the 60th legislative day.

(b) Amendments to the revenue estimating resolution must be transmitted to the body in which the resolution was introduced no later than the 82nd legislative day.

(3) Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules may be transmitted at any time during a session.

(4) Interim study resolutions must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 85th legislative day.

**40-210. Governor's veto.** (1) Except as provided in 40-65 and 40-180, each bill passed by the Legislature must be submitted to the Governor for the Governor's signature. This does not apply to:

(a) bills proposing amendments to The Constitution of the State of Montana;

(b) bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States Constitution;

(c) resolutions; and

(d) referendum measures of the Legislature.

(2) If the Governor does not sign or veto the bill within 10 days after its delivery, the bill becomes law.

(3) The Governor shall return a vetoed bill to the Legislature with a statement of reasons for the veto.

(4) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it becomes law.

(5) If the Legislature is not in session when the Governor vetoes a bill, the Governor shall return the bill with reasons for the veto to the Legislature as provided by law. The Legislature may be polled on a bill that it

approved by two-thirds of the members present or it may be reconvened to reconsider any bill so vetoed (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(6) The Governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in these instances the procedure must be the same as upon veto of an entire bill (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(7) For the purposes of this rule and 40-220, receipt of the bill with a veto message from the Governor by the house from which the bill originated occurs when either the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate physically receives the returned bill and the bill is time stamped and dated as being received.

**40-220. Response to Governor's veto.** (1) When the presiding officer receives a veto message, the presiding officer shall read it to the members over the rostrum. After the reading, a member may move that the Governor's veto be overridden.

(2) A vote on the motion is determined by roll call. If two-thirds of the members present vote "aye", the veto is overridden. If two-thirds of the members present do not vote "aye", the veto is sustained.

**40-230. Governor's recommendations for amendment -- procedure.** (1) The Governor may return any bill to the Legislature with recommendations for amendment. The Governor's recommendations for amendment must be considered first by the house in which the bill originated.

(2) If the Legislature passes the bill in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, it shall return the bill to the Governor for reconsideration. The Governor may not return a bill to the Legislature a second time for amendment.

(3) If the Governor returns a bill to the originating house with recommendations for amendment, the house shall reconsider the bill under its rules relating to amendments offered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) The bill then is subject to the following procedures:

(a) The originating house shall transmit to the second house, for consideration under its rules relating to amendments in Committee of the Whole, the bill and the originating house's approval or disapproval of the Governor's recommendations.

(b) If both houses approve the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(c) If both houses disapprove the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(d) If one house disapproves the Governor's recommendations and the other house approves, then either house may request a conference committee, which may be a free conference committee.

(i) If both houses adopt a conference committee report, the bill in accordance with the report must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(ii) If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the Governor's recommendations must be considered not approved and the bill must be returned to the Governor for further consideration.

## CHAPTER 60

### Rules

**60-05. Source and precedent of legislative rules of the Montana Legislature.** (1) The legislative rules of the Montana Legislature are derived from several sources listed below and take precedence in the following order:

- (a) constitutional provisions;
- (b) adopted legislative rules of the Montana Legislature;
- (c) statutory provisions;
- (d) adopted parliamentary authority; and
- (e) parliamentary law.

(2) Legislative rules passed by one legislature or statutory provisions governing the legislative process are not binding on a subsequent legislature.

**60-10. Suspension of joint rule -- change in rules.** (1) A joint rule may be repealed, amended, or adopted only with the concurrence of both houses. A motion or a joint rule resolution to repeal, amend, or adopt a joint rule must be referred to the Rules Committee. A joint rule may be repealed, amended, or adopted only with the concurrence of a majority of the members voting in both houses.

(2) A joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills may be temporarily suspended by the consent of two-thirds of the members of either house, insofar as it applies to the house suspending it.

(3) Any Rules Committee report recommending a change in the joint rules must be referred to the other house. Any new rule or any change in the rules of either house must be transmitted to the other house for informational purposes.

(4) Upon adoption of any change, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide the office of the Legislative Services Division:

- (a) one copy of all motions or resolutions amending Senate, House, or joint rules; and
- (b) electronic copies of all audio recording logs and reports of the Rules Committees.

**60-20. Reference to Mason's Manual.** Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2020) governs the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives in all cases not covered by these rules.

**60-30. Publication and distribution of joint rules.** (1) The Legislative Services Division shall codify and publish in one volume:

- (a) the rules of the Senate;
- (b) the rules of the House of Representatives; and
- (c) the joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) After the rules have been published, the Legislative Services Division shall distribute copies as directed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**60-40. Tenure of joint rules.** The joint rules remain in effect until removed by a joint resolution or until a new Legislature is elected and takes office.

- END

-

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
SJ 1, 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. 1

INTRODUCED BY T. MCGILLVRAY

BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT RULES COMMITTEE  
ADOPTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE RULES