

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1  
2 INTRODUCED BY PARKER, LANGE, BROWN, HIMMELBERGER, BARRETT, HARRIS, WANZENRIED,  
3 NOENNIG, WAGMAN, GLASER, LINDEEN, MATTHEWS, GALLIK, GOLIE  
4 BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE RULES STANDING COMMITTEE  
5

6 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REVISING AND  
7 ADOPTING THE HOUSE RULES.  
8

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
10 MONTANA:

11 That the following rules be adopted:

12 **RULES OF THE MONTANA**  
13 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
14 **CHAPTER 1**  
15 **Administration**

16 **H10-10. House officers.** (1) House officers include a Speaker, a Speaker pro tempore, a House  
17 Democratic Leader, a House Republican Leader, Democratic majority and minority Republican floor leaders,  
18 and majority Democratic and minority Republican whips (section 5-2-221, MCA).

19 (2) A majority of representatives voting elects the Speaker and Speaker pro tempore from the House  
20 membership. A majority of each caucus voting nominates House members to the remaining offices, and those  
21 nominees are considered to have been elected by a majority vote of the House.

22 **H10-20. Speaker's duties.** (1) The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House, with authority for  
23 administration, order, decorum, and the interpretation and enforcement of rules in all House deliberations.

24 (2) The Speaker shall see that all members conduct themselves in a civil manner in accordance with  
25 accepted standards of parliamentary conduct. The Speaker may, when necessary, order the Sergeant-at-Arms  
26 to clear the aisles and seat the members of the House so that business may be conducted in an orderly manner.

27 (3) Signs, placards, or other objects of a similar nature are not permitted in the rooms, lobby, gallery,  
28 or on the floor of the House. The Speaker may order the galleries, lobbies, or hallway cleared in case of  
29 disturbance or disorderly conduct.

30 ~~(4) The Speaker shall appoint and may remove the members of all standing and select committees not~~

1 otherwise specified by law or rule. Prior to making committee assignments, the Speaker shall take into  
2 consideration the recommendations of the minority leader for minority committee assignments and the  
3 appointment of the minority vice chairmen. For the Rules Committee, the Speaker shall determine the total  
4 number of members and the party division, but each party shall appoint its own members. The Speaker may  
5 appoint an additional at-large member to the Rules Committee from either party.

6 ~~(5)~~(4) The Speaker shall sign all necessary certifications by the House, including enrolled bills and  
7 resolutions, journals (section 5-11-201, MCA), subpoenas, and payrolls.

8 ~~(6)~~(5) The Speaker shall arrange the agendas for second and third readings each legislative day after  
9 good faith consultation with the House Democratic Leader and the House Republican Leader. Representatives  
10 may amend the agendas as provided in H40-130.

11 ~~(7)~~(6) The Speaker is the chief officer of the House, with authority for all House employees. The  
12 Speaker may seek the advice and counsel of the Legislative Administration Committee regarding employees.

13 ~~(8)~~(7) The Speaker may name any member to perform the duties of the chair. If the House is not in  
14 session and the Speaker pro tempore is not available, the Speaker shall name a member who shall call the  
15 House to order and preside during the Speaker's absence.

16 (8) Upon request of the House Leader of the opposite party, the Speaker will submit a request for a  
17 fiscal note on any bill.

18 **H10-30. Speaker-elect.** During the transition period between the party organization caucuses and the  
19 election of House officers, the Speaker-elect has the responsibilities and authority appropriate to organize the  
20 House (section 5-2-202, MCA). Authority includes approving pre-session expenditures.

21 **H10-40. Speaker pro tempore duties.** The Speaker pro tempore shall, in the absence or inability of  
22 the Speaker, call the House to order and perform all other duties of the chair in presiding over the deliberations  
23 of the House and shall perform other duties and exercise other responsibilities as may be assigned by the  
24 Speaker.

25 **H10-50. Legislative Administration Committee duties.** (1) The Legislative Administration Committee  
26 shall consider matters relating to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations,  
27 and expenditures.

28 (2) The committee shall have authority to act in the interim to prepare for future legislative sessions.  
29 It may delegate specific duties to a legislative agency.

30 ~~(3) The committee shall approve contracts for purchase or lease of equipment and supplies for the~~

1 ~~House, subject to the approval of the Speaker.~~

2 ~~(4)(3)~~ The committee shall comprise the House membership of the Joint Legislative Administration  
3 Committee.

4 (4) The House Democratic Leader and the House Republican Leader shall meet and reach an  
5 agreement on the office space allocated to each political party. If there is no House Democratic Leader, the  
6 Speaker shall act on behalf of the Democrats.

7 **H10-60. Employees.** (1) The Speaker shall appoint a Chief Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain,  
8 subject to confirmation of the House (section 5-2-221, MCA).

9 (2) The Speaker shall recommend to the Legislative Administration Committee employment of  
10 necessary staff. All House staff hired to date will be retained.

11 (3) The secretary for a standing or select committee is generally responsible to the committee chair but  
12 shall work under the direction of the Chief Clerk.

13 (4) The Speaker and ~~majority Democratic~~ and ~~minority Republican~~ floor leaders may each appoint a  
14 private secretary.

15 **H10-70. Chief Clerk's duties.** The Chief Clerk, under the supervision of the Speaker, is the chief  
16 administrative officer of the House and is responsible to:

17 (1) supervise all House employees;

18 (2) have custody of all records and documents of the House;

19 (3) supervise the handling of legislation in the House, the House journal, and other House publications;

20 deliver to the Secretary of State at the close of each session the House journal, bill and resolution records, and

21 all original House bills and joint resolutions; collect minutes and exhibits from all House committees and

22 subcommittees and ~~deliver them, unbound, to the Legislative Services Division librarian, who shall arrange to~~

23 ~~have them copied in an archivable format~~ printed on archival paper and copied in an electronic format within a

24 reasonable time after each meeting. ~~A~~ An electronic copy will be provided to the Legislative Services Division

25 and the State Law Library of Montana. ~~The Legislative Fiscal Analyst will receive a copy of the minutes from the~~

26 ~~appropriation committee and subcommittees. After copying, the original minutes~~ The archival paper copy will

27 be delivered to the Montana Historical Society.

28 **H10-80. Sergeant-at-Arms duties.** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

29 (1) under the direction of the Speaker and the Chief Clerk, have charge of and maintain order in the

30 House, its lobbies, galleries, and hallways and all other rooms in the Capitol assigned for the use of the House;

1 (2) be present whenever the House is in session and at any other time as directed by the presiding  
2 officer;

3 (3) execute the commands of the House and serve the writs and processes issued by the authority of  
4 the House and directed by the Speaker;

5 (4) supervise assistants to the Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall aid in the performance of prescribed duties  
6 and who have the same authority, subject to the control of the Speaker;

7 (5) clear the floor and anteroom of the House of all persons not entitled to the privileges of the floor prior  
8 to the convening of each session of the House;

9 (6) bring in absent members when so directed under a call of the House;

10 (7) enforce the distribution of any printed matter in the House chambers and anteroom in accordance  
11 with H20-80;

12 (8) enforce parking regulations applicable to areas of the Capitol complex under the control of the  
13 House;

14 (9) supervise the doorkeeper; and

15 (10) supervise the pages.

16 **H10-90. Legislative aides.** (1) A legislative aide is a person specifically designated by a representative  
17 to assist that representative in performing legislative duties. A representative may sponsor one legislative aide  
18 a session by written notification to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

19 (2) No representative may designate a second legislative aide in the same session without the approval  
20 of the House Rules Committee.

21 (3) A legislative aide must be of legal age unless otherwise approved by the House Rules Committee.

22 (4) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall issue distinctive identification tags to legislative aides. The cost must  
23 be paid by the sponsoring representative.

24 **H10-100. Legislative interns.** A legislative intern is a person designated under Title 5, chapter 6, MCA.

25 **H10-110. House journal.** (1) The House shall keep a journal, which is the official record of House  
26 actions (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10). The journal must be prepared under the direction of the Speaker.

27 (2) Records of the following proceedings must be entered on the journal:

28 (a) the taking and subscription of the constitutional oath by representatives (Montana Constitution, Art.  
29 III, Sec. 3; 5-2-214);

30 (b) committee reports;

1 (c) messages from the Governor;  
2 (d) messages from the Senate;  
3 (e) every motion, the name of the representative presenting it, and its disposition;  
4 (f) the introduction of legislation in the House;  
5 (g) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;  
6 (h) on final passage of legislation, the names of the representatives and their vote on the question  
7 (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11);  
8 (i) roll call votes; and  
9 (j) upon a request by two representatives before a vote is taken, the names of the representatives and  
10 their votes on the question.

11 (3) The Chief Clerk shall provide to the Legislative Services Division such information as may be  
12 required for the publication of the daily journal.

13 (4) Any representative may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. The Speaker may direct  
14 a correction to be made when suggested subject to objection by the House.

15 (5) The Speaker shall authenticate the House journal after the close of the session (section 5-11-201,  
16 MCA).

17 (6) The Legislative Services Division shall publish and distribute the House journal (sections 5-11-202  
18 and 5-11-203, MCA). The title of each bill must be listed in the index of the published session journal.

19 **H10-120. Votes recorded and public.** Every vote of each representative on each substantive question  
20 in the House, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made public (Montana  
21 Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11).

22 **H10-130. Duration of legislative day.** A legislative day ends either 24 hours after the House convenes  
23 for that day or at the time the House convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier.

## 24 CHAPTER 2

### 25 Decorum

26 **H20-10. Addressing the House -- recognition.** (1) When a member desires to speak to or address  
27 any matter to the House, the member should rise and respectfully address the Speaker or the presiding officer.

28 (2) The Speaker or presiding officer may ask, "For what purpose does the member rise?" or "For what  
29 purpose does the member seek recognition?" and may then decide if recognition is to be granted. There is no  
30 appeal from the Speaker's or presiding officer's decision.

1           **H20-20. Questions of order and privilege.** (1) The Speaker shall decide all questions of order and  
2 privilege, subject to an appeal by any representative seconded by two representatives. The question on appeal  
3 is, "Shall the decision of the chairman be sustained?".

4           (2) Responses to parliamentary inquiries and decisions of recognition may not be appealed.

5           (3) Questions of order and privilege, in order of precedence, are:

6           (a) those affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, and integrity of the House; and

7           (b) those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of individual representatives.

8           (4) A member may not address the House on a question of privilege between the time:

9           (a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion;

10          (b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous  
11 question; or

12          (c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion.

13           **H20-30. Limits on lobbying.** Lobbying on the House floor and in the anteroom is prohibited during a  
14 daily session, 2 hours before the session, and 2 hours after the session.

15           **H20-40. Admittance to the House floor.** (1) The following persons may be admitted to the House floor  
16 during a daily session: present and former legislators; legislative employees necessary for the conduct of the  
17 session; accredited news staff; and members' spouses and children. The Speaker may allow exceptions to this  
18 rule.

19           (2) Only a member may sit in a member's chair when the House is in session.

20           **H20-50. Dilatory motions or questions.** The House has a right to protect itself from dilatory motions  
21 or questions used for the purpose of delaying or obstructing business. The presiding officer shall decide if  
22 motions (except a call of the House) or questions are dilatory. This decision may be appealed to the House.

23           **H20-60. Opening and order of business.** The opening of each legislative day must include an  
24 invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and roll call. Following the opening, the order of business of the House is  
25 as follows:

26           (1) communications and petitions;

27           (2) reports of standing committees;

28           (3) reports of select committees;

29           (4) messages from the Senate;

30           (5) messages from the Governor;

- 1 (6) first reading and commitment of bills;
- 2 (7) second reading of bills;
- 3 (8) third reading of bills;
- 4 (9) motions;
- 5 (10) unfinished business;
- 6 (11) special orders of the day; and
- 7 (12) announcement of committee meetings.

8 **H20-70. Lobbying by employees.** (1) A legislative employee, intern, or aide of either house is prohibited  
9 from lobbying, although a legislative committee may request testimony from a person so restricted.

10 (2) The Speaker or the Legislative Administration Committee may discipline or discharge any House  
11 employee violating this prohibition. The Speaker or the committee may withdraw the privileges of any House  
12 aide or intern violating this prohibition.

13 **H20-80. Papers distributed on desks.** A paper concerning proposed legislation may not be placed on  
14 representatives' desks unless it is authorized by a member and permission has been granted by the Speaker.  
15 The Sergeant-at-Arms shall direct its distribution.

16 **H20-90. Violation of rules.** (1) If a member, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the House,  
17 the Speaker shall, or the majority Democratic or minority Republican floor leader may, call the member to order,  
18 in which case the member called to order must be seated immediately.

19 (2) The member called to order may move for an appeal to the House and if the motion is seconded  
20 by two members, the matter must be submitted to the House for determination by majority vote. The motion is  
21 nondebatable.

22 (3) If the decision of the House is in favor of the member called to order, the member may proceed.  
23 If the decision is against the member, the member may not proceed.

24 (4) If a member is called to order, the matter may be referred to the Rules Committee by the minority  
25 Democratic or majority Republican floor leader. The Committee may recommend to the House that the member  
26 be censured or be subject to other action. The House shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.

### 27 CHAPTER 3

### 28 Committees

29 **H30-10. House standing committees -- appointments.** (1) ~~The Speaker shall determine the total~~  
30 ~~number of members and the party division and shall appoint the members to the following~~ are the standing

1 committees: Agriculture; Appropriations; Business and Labor; Education; Ethics; Federal Relations, Energy, and  
2 Telecommunications; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Transportation; Human Services; Judiciary; Legislative  
3 Administration; Local Government; Natural Resources; Rules; State Administration; and Taxation.

4 ~~(2) (a) The Speaker shall appoint the chairman, vice chairman, and minority vice chairman of each~~  
5 ~~standing committee while retaining the authority to remove and replace any chairman, vice chairman, or minority~~  
6 ~~vice chairman at any time. The appointment or removal of a minority vice chairman requires the consent of the~~  
7 ~~minority leader. The Speaker shall give notice of each appointment to the Chief Clerk for publication.~~

8 Each standing committee must be composed of an equal number of members of each political party.

9 (b) There will be an equal number of committees chaired by the members of each political party.

10 (c) There must be two vice chairmen for each committee, one from each political party.

11 (d) The Democrats will chair the following standing committees: Appropriations; Business and Labor;  
12 Education; Ethics; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Human Services; Rules; and State Administration.

13 (e) The Republicans will chair the following standing committees: Agriculture; Federal Relations,  
14 Energy, and Telecommunications; Judiciary; Legislative Administration; Local Government; Natural Resources;  
15 Taxation; and Transportation.

16 (f) The House Democratic Leader, in consultation with the Speaker, shall appoint the Democratic  
17 committee chairmen and vice chairmen, and the House Republican Leader, in consultation with the Speaker,  
18 shall appoint the Republican committee chairmen and vice chairmen. The authority to appoint a chairman or vice  
19 chairman carries with it the power to remove that chairman or vice chairman from a committee.

20 (g) The members of the standing and select committees must be appointed by the House Democratic  
21 Leader and the House Republican Leader after good faith consultation with the Speaker and the other House  
22 Leader. The Speaker shall appoint a total of three members to standing committees. After the Speaker has  
23 made appointments, the Democratic House Leader and the Republican House Leader shall appoint the  
24 members of their respective parties. The authority to appoint a member carries with it the power to remove that  
25 member from a committee.

26 (h) There will be six subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations. Three subcommittees will be  
27 chaired by Democratic representatives, and three subcommittees will be chaired by Republican representatives.  
28 The chairman of the Committee on Appropriations shall choose the first subcommittee chairman, and the vice  
29 chairman of the Committee on Appropriations from the other political party shall choose the second  
30 subcommittee chairman. The parties shall then alternate the selection of the remaining subcommittee chairmen.

1           (3) The Speaker may, in the Speaker's discretion or as authorized by the House, create and appoint  
2 select committees, designating the chairman and vice chairman of the select committee. Select committees may  
3 request or receive legislation in the same manner as a standing committee and are subject to the rules of  
4 standing committees.

5           **H30-20. Chairman's duties.** (1) The principal duties of the chairman of standing or select committees  
6 are to:

- 7           ~~(1)~~(a) preside over meetings of the committee and to put all questions;  
8           ~~(2)~~(b) maintain order and decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the committee;  
9           ~~(3)~~(c) supervise and direct staff of the committee;  
10          ~~(4)~~(d) have the committee secretary keep the official record of the minutes;  
11          ~~(5)~~(e) sign reports of the committee and submit them promptly to the Chief Clerk;  
12          ~~(6)~~(f) appoint subcommittees to perform on a formal or an informal basis as provided in subsection (2);

13 and

14          ~~(7)~~(g) inform the Speaker of committee activity.

15          (2) With the exception of the House Appropriations subcommittees, a subcommittee of a standing  
16 committee may be appointed by the chairman of the committee. A subcommittee must be composed of an equal  
17 number of members from each political party. The chairman of the standing committee shall appoint the  
18 chairman of the subcommittee.

19          **H30-30. Quorum -- officers as members.** (1) A quorum of a committee is a majority of the members  
20 of the committee. A quorum of a committee must be present at a meeting to act officially. A quorum of a  
21 committee may transact business, and a majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the committee,  
22 is sufficient for committee action.

23          (2) The Speaker, the House Democratic Leader, the House Republican Leader, majority the  
24 Democratic floor leader, and minority the Republican floor leader are ex officio, nonvoting members of all House  
25 committees. They may count toward establishing a quorum.

26          **H30-40. Meetings.** (1) All meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times, subject  
27 always to the power and authority of the chairman to maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and  
28 place of committee meetings must be posted.

29          (2) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

30          (a) a public hearing at which testimony is to be heard and at which official action may be taken on bills,

1 resolutions, or other matters;

2 (b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions,  
3 or other matters without testimony; or

4 (c) a work session at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no  
5 formal action.

6 (3) All committees meet at the call of the chairman or upon the request of a majority of the members  
7 of the committee directed to and with the approval of the Speaker.

8 (4) All committees shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice  
9 to interested persons, of the time, place, and subject matter of regular and special meetings. All committees are  
10 encouraged to provide at least 3 legislative days notice to members of committees and the general public.  
11 However, a meeting may be held upon notice appropriate to the circumstances.

12 (5) A committee may not meet during the time the House is in session without leave of the Speaker.  
13 Any member attending such a meeting must be considered excused to attend business of the House subject  
14 to a call of the House.

15 (6) All meetings of committees must be recorded and the minutes must be available to the public within  
16 a reasonable time after the meeting. The official record must contain at least the following information:

17 (a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;

18 (b) committee members present, excused, or absent;

19 (c) the names and addresses of persons appearing before the committee, whom each represents, and  
20 whether the person is a proponent, opponent, or other witness;

21 (d) all motions and their disposition;

22 (e) the results of all votes;

23 (f) references to the recording log, sufficient to serve as an index to the original recording; and

24 (g) testimony and exhibits submitted in writing.

25 **H30-50. Procedures.** (1) The chairman shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the  
26 committee of the time and place it will be considered.

27 (2) A standing or select committee may not take up referred legislation unless the sponsor or one of the  
28 cosponsors is present or unless the sponsor has given written consent.

29 (3) The committee shall act on each bill in its possession:

30 (a) by reporting the bill out of the committee:

1 (i) with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee;

2 (ii) favorably as to passage; or

3 (iii) unfavorably; or

4 (b) by tabling the measure in committee.

5 (4) The committee may not report a bill to the House without recommendation. Except as provided in  
6 subsection (5), a tie vote in a standing committee on the question of a recommendation to the whole House on  
7 a matter before the committee, for example on a question of whether a bill "do pass" or "do not pass", does not  
8 result in the matter passing out to the whole House for consideration without recommendation.

9 (5) Each political party is entitled to choose 12 bills on which a tie vote in committee will result in the  
10 matter passing out of committee to the whole House without recommendation. The bills must be chosen by the  
11 House Democratic Leader for the Democratic party and the House Republican Leader for the Republican party.  
12 The House Democratic Leader and the House Republican Leader may agree in writing to increase the number  
13 of bills on which a tie vote in committee will result in the matter passing out of committee to the whole House  
14 without recommendation.

15 ~~(5)~~(6) The committee may recommend that a bill on which it has made a favorable recommendation  
16 by unanimous vote be placed on the consent calendar.

17 ~~(6)~~(7) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee shall include in its report:

18 (a) the measure in the form reported out;

19 (b) the recommendation of the committee;

20 (c) an identification of all substantive changes; and

21 (d) a fiscal note, if required.

22 ~~(7)~~(8) If a measure is withdrawn from a committee and brought to the House floor for debate on second  
23 reading on that day without a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments formally  
24 adopted by the committee.

25 ~~(8)~~(9) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required in order for the motion to be  
26 considered by the committee.

27 ~~(9)~~(10) The vote of each member on all committee actions must be recorded. All motions may be  
28 adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting.

29 ~~(10)~~(11) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the  
30 members present at any meeting of the committee.

1           ~~(11)~~(12) An action formally taken by a committee may not be altered in the committee except by  
2 reconsideration and further formal action of the committee.

3           ~~(12)~~(13) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the matter remains in the possession of the  
4 committee. A committee member need not have voted with the prevailing side in order to move reconsideration.

5           ~~(13)~~(14) Any legislation requested by a committee requires three-fourths of all members of the  
6 committee to vote in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting or introduction of  
7 legislation. Votes requesting drafting and introduction of committee legislation may be taken jointly or  
8 separately.

9           ~~(14)~~(15) The chairman shall decide points of order.

10          ~~(15)~~(16) The privileges of committee members include the following:

11          (a) to participate freely in committee discussions and debate;

12          (b) to offer motions;

13          (c) to assert points of order and privilege;

14          (d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chairman;

15          (e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and

16          (f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy, using a standard form or through the vice chairman or  
17 minority vice chairman.

18          ~~(16)~~(17) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of telephone or other electronic  
19 communication must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 3 of the House Rules.

20          ~~(17)~~(18) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or more related bills referred to it whenever  
21 legislation may be simplified by the consolidation.

22          ~~(18)~~(19) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any questions arise on committee procedure,  
23 the rules or practices of the House are applicable except as stated in the House Rules.

24           **H30-60. Public testimony.** (1) Testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses  
25 must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee. All persons, other than the  
26 sponsor, offering testimony shall complete a "Witness Form" and submit it to the committee secretary.

27           (2) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee hearing a bill or resolution must be given a  
28 reasonable opportunity to do so, orally or in writing. Written testimony may not be required of any witness, but  
29 all witnesses must be encouraged to submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record.

30           (3) The chairman may order the committee room cleared of visitors if there is disorderly conduct. During

1 committee meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chairman. Restrictions on time available  
2 for testimony may be announced.

3 (4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed the maximum posted by the State Fire  
4 Marshal. The chairman shall maintain that limit.

5 (5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras, television, radio, or any form of telecommunication  
6 equipment is allowed, but the chairman may designate the areas of the hearing room from which the equipment  
7 must be operated.

## 8 CHAPTER 4

### 9 Legislation

10 **H40-10. Introduction deadlines.** ~~(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if~~ If a representative accepts  
11 drafted legislation from the Legislative Services Division after the deadline for ~~introduction~~ preintroduction, the  
12 representative may not introduce that legislation after ~~48 hours~~ 2 legislative days from the time the bill was  
13 accepted from the Legislative Services Division.

14 ~~(2) No bill or resolution may be introduced any later than 5 p.m. 5 legislative days prior to the~~  
15 ~~appropriate transmittal deadline.~~

16 **H40-20. House resolutions.** (1) A House resolution is used to adopt or amend House rules, make  
17 recommendations on the districting and apportionment plan (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 14), express the  
18 sentiment of the House, or assist House operations.

19 (2) As to drafting, introduction, and referral, a House resolution is treated as a bill. A House resolution  
20 may be requested and introduced at any time. Final passage of a House resolution is determined by the  
21 Committee of the Whole report. A House resolution does not progress to third reading.

22 (3) The Chief Clerk shall transmit a copy of each passed House resolution to the Senate and the  
23 Secretary of State.

24 **H40-30. Cosponsors.** (1) Prior to submitting legislation to the Chief Clerk for introduction, the chief  
25 sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors by having them sign the legislation.

26 (2) After legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first House  
27 committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Chief Clerk.  
28 This filing must be noted by the Chief Clerk for the record on Order of Business No. 11.

29 **H40-40. Introduction -- receipt.** (1) During a session, proposed House legislation may be introduced  
30 in the House by submitting it, endorsed with the signature of a representative as chief sponsor, to the Chief Clerk

1 for introduction. ~~It~~ Except for the first 15 bill numbers that may be reserved for preintroduced legislation, in each  
 2 session of the Legislature, the proposed legislation must be numbered consecutively by type in the order of  
 3 receipt. Submission and numbering of properly endorsed legislation constitutes introduction.

4 (2) Preintroduction of legislation prior to a session under provisions of the joint rules constitutes  
 5 introduction in the House.

6 (3) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation or other matters transmitted from the  
 7 Senate for consideration by the House constitutes introduction of the Senate legislation in the House or receipt  
 8 by the House for purposes of applying time limits contained in the House rules. All legislation may be referred  
 9 to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum as provided in H40-50.

10 (4) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of messages from the Senate or other elected officials  
 11 constitutes receipt by the House for purposes of any applicable time limit. Senate legislation or messages  
 12 received from the Senate or elected officials are subject to all other rules.

13 **H40-50. First reading.** Legislation properly introduced or received in the House must be announced  
 14 across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or  
 15 motion is in order except that a representative may question adherence to rules. Acknowledgment by the Chief  
 16 Clerk of receipt of legislation transmitted from the Senate commences the time limit for consideration of the  
 17 legislation. All legislation received by the House may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the  
 18 rostrum.

19 **H40-60. One reading per day.** Except on the final legislative day, legislation may receive no more than  
 20 one reading per legislative day. On the final legislative day, legislation may receive more than one reading.

21 **H40-70. Referral.** (1) ~~The~~ If the Speaker is not the elected leader of the Democratic caucus, the Rules  
 22 Committee shall establish the jurisdiction of each standing committee and shall refer to a House committee all  
 23 properly introduced House legislation and transmitted Senate legislation must be referred to a House committee,  
 24 joint select committee, or joint special committee by the Chief Clerk of the House in conformity to the committee  
 25 jurisdiction. The assignment of a bill to a committee may be appealed to the Rules Committee by either House  
 26 Leader. If the Rules Committee does not reassign a bill to another committee, the original assignment may not  
 27 be changed unless accomplished by motion on the House floor.

28 (2) Legislation may not receive final passage and approval unless it has been referred to a House  
 29 committee, joint select committee, or joint special committee.

30 **H40-80. Rereferral -- normal progression.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), legislation that

1 is in the possession of the House and that has not been finally disposed of may be rereferred to a House  
2 committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

3 (2) Legislation that is in the possession of the House and that has been reported from a committee with  
4 a do pass or be concurred in recommendation may be rereferred to a House committee by a majority vote.

5 (3) The normal progress of legislation through the House consists of the following steps in the order  
6 listed: introduction; referral to a standing or select committee; a report from the committee; second reading; and  
7 third reading.

8 **H40-90. Legislation withdrawn from committee.** Legislation may be withdrawn from a House  
9 committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

10 **H40-100. Standing committee reports.** (1) A Subject to H30-50(5), a House standing committee  
11 recommendation of "do pass" or "be concurred in" must be announced across the rostrum and, if there is no  
12 objection to form, is considered adopted.

13 (2) A recommendation of "do not pass" or "be not concurred in" must be announced across the rostrum  
14 and, on the following legislative day, may be debated and adopted or rejected on Order of Business No. 2. A  
15 motion to reject an adverse committee report must be approved by not less than three-fifths of the members  
16 voting. Failure to adopt a motion to reject an adverse committee report constitutes adoption of the report.

17 (3) If the House rejects an adverse committee report, the bill progresses to second reading, as  
18 scheduled by the Speaker, with any amendments recommended by the committee.

19 **H40-110. Consent calendar procedure.** (1) Noncontroversial bills and simple and joint resolutions may  
20 be recommended for the consent calendar by a standing committee and processed according to the following  
21 provisions:

22 (a) To be eligible for the consent calendar, the legislation must receive a unanimous vote by the  
23 members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended). In addition, a motion must  
24 be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in  
25 the committee report. Appropriation or revenue bills may not be recommended for the consent calendar.

26 (b) The legislation must then be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and  
27 specifically marked as a "consent calendar" item.

28 (2) Other legislation may be placed on the consent calendar by agreement between the Speaker and  
29 the ~~minority~~ Republican floor leader following a positive recommendation by a standing committee. The  
30 legislation must be sent to be processed as a second reading version but must be specifically announced and

1 posted as a "consent calendar" item.

2 (3) Legislation must be posted immediately (as soon as it is received appropriately printed) on the  
3 consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of Business No.  
4 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the presiding officer shall announce consideration of the consent  
5 calendar and allow "reasonable time" for questions and answers upon request. No debate is allowed.

6 (4) If any one representative submits a written objection to the placement of legislation on the consent  
7 calendar, the legislation must be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading  
8 board.

9 (5) Consent calendar legislation will be considered on Order of Business No. 8, third reading of bills,  
10 following the regular third reading agenda, as separately noted on the agenda.

11 (6) Legislation on the consent calendar must be considered individually with the roll call vote spread  
12 on the journal as the final vote in the House.

13 (7) Legislation passed on the consent calendar must then be transmitted to the Senate. Legislation must  
14 be appropriately printed prior to transmittal.

15 **H40-120. Legislation requiring other than a majority vote.** Legislation that requires other than a  
16 majority vote for final passage needs only a majority vote for any action that is taken prior to third reading and  
17 that normally requires a majority vote.

18 **H40-130. Amending House second and third reading agendas.** (1) A majority of representatives  
19 present may rearrange or remove legislation from either the second or third reading agenda on that legislative  
20 day.

21 (2) Legislation may be added to the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day on a motion  
22 approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

23 **H40-140. Second reading.** (1) Legislation returned from committee may be placed on second reading  
24 unless otherwise ordered by the House.

25 (2) The House shall form itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider business on second reading.  
26 The Committee of the Whole may debate legislation, attach amendments, and recommend approval or  
27 disapproval of legislation.

28 (3) Except on the final legislative day, at least 1 legislative day must elapse between the time legislation  
29 is reported from committee and the time it is considered on second reading.

30 (4) If a motion to recommend that a bill "do pass" or "be concurred in" fails in the Committee of the

1 Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill "do not pass" or "be not concurred in", is considered to  
2 have passed. If a motion to recommend that a bill "do not pass" or "be not concurred in" fails in the Committee  
3 of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill "do pass" or "be concurred in", is considered to  
4 have passed.

5 (5) An amendment attached to legislation by the Committee of the Whole remains unless removed by  
6 further legislative action.

7 (6) When the Committee of the Whole reports to the House, the House shall adopt or reject the  
8 Committee of the Whole report. If the House rejects the Committee of the Whole report, the legislation remains  
9 on second reading, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, unless the House orders otherwise.

10 (7) A representative may move to segregate legislation from the Committee of the Whole report before  
11 the report is adopted. Segregated legislation, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, must be placed on  
12 second reading unless the House orders otherwise. Amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole on  
13 segregated legislation remain adopted unless reconsidered or unless the legislation is rereferred to a committee.

14 **H40-150. Amendments in the Committee of the Whole.** (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments  
15 must be checked by the House amendments coordinator for format, style, clarity, consistency, and other factors,  
16 in accordance with the most recent Bill Drafting Manual published by the Legislative Services Division, before  
17 the amendment may be accepted at the rostrum. The amendment form must include the date and time the  
18 amendment is submitted for that check.

19 (2) An amendment submitted to the rostrum for consideration by the Committee of the Whole must be  
20 marked as checked by the amendments coordinator and signed by a representative. Unless the ~~majority~~  
21 Democratic floor leader, the ~~minority~~ Republican floor leader, and sponsor agree, amendments must be printed  
22 and placed on the members' desks prior to consideration.

23 (3) An amendment may not be proposed until the sponsor has opened on a bill.

24 (4) A copy of every amendment rejected by the Committee of the Whole must be kept as part of the  
25 official records.

26 (5) An amendment may not change the original purpose of the bill.

27 **H40-160. Motions in the Committee of the Whole.** (1) When the House resolves itself into a  
28 Committee of the Whole, the only motions in order are to:

29 (a) amend;

30 (b) recommend passage or nonpassage;

- 1 (c) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence;
- 2 (d) reconsider;
- 3 (e) pass consideration;
- 4 (f) call for cloture;
- 5 (g) rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again; and
- 6 (h) to change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda.
- 7 (2) Subsections (1)(d) through (1)(g) are nondebatable but may be amended. Once a motion under
- 8 subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c) is made, a contrary motion is not in order.
- 9 (3) If a quorum of representatives is not present during second reading, the Committee of the Whole
- 10 may conduct no business on legislation and a motion for a call of the House without a quorum is in order.
- 11 **H40-170. Limits on debate in the Committee of the Whole.** (1) A representative may not speak more
- 12 than once on the motion and may speak for no more than 5 minutes. The representative who makes the motion
- 13 may speak a second time for 5 minutes in order to close.
- 14 (2) After at least two proponents and two opponents have spoken on a question and 30 minutes have
- 15 elapsed, a motion to call for cloture is in order. Approval by not less than two-thirds of the members present and
- 16 voting is required to sustain a motion for cloture. Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the
- 17 sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.
- 18 (3) By previous agreement of the ~~majority~~ Democratic floor leader and the ~~minority~~ Republican floor
- 19 leader:
- 20 (a) a lead proponent and a lead opponent may be granted additional time to speak on a bill;
- 21 (b) a bill or resolution may be allocated a predetermined amount of time for debate and number of
- 22 speakers.
- 23 **H40-180. Special provisions for debate on the general appropriations bill.** (1) The Appropriations
- 24 Committee chairman, in presenting the bill, is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.
- 25 (2) Each appropriations subcommittee chairman shall fully present the chairman's portion of the bill. A
- 26 subcommittee chairman is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.
- 27 (3) After the presentation by the subcommittee chairman, the respective section of the bill is open for
- 28 debate, questions, and amendments. A proposed amendment to the general appropriations act may not be
- 29 divided.
- 30 (4) An amendment that affects more than one section of the bill must be offered when the first section

1 affected is considered.

2 (5) Following completion of the debate on each section, that section is closed and may not be reopened  
3 except by majority vote.

4 (6) If a member moves to reopen a section for amendment, only the amendment of that member may  
5 be entertained. Another member wishing to amend the same section shall make a separate motion to reopen  
6 the section.

7 (7) Debate on the motion to reopen a section is limited to the question of reopening the section. The  
8 amendment itself may not be debated at that time. This limitation does not prohibit the member from explaining  
9 the amendment to be considered.

10 (8) A motion for cloture is not in order during debate on the general appropriations bill.

11 **H40-190. Engrossing.** (1) After legislation is passed on second reading, it must be engrossed within  
12 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for engrossing.

13 (2) When the legislation that has passed second reading, as amended, has been correctly engrossed,  
14 it may be placed on third reading on the following legislative day. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent  
15 to printing. On the final legislative day, the correctly engrossed legislation may be placed on third reading on the  
16 same legislative day. For the purposes of this rule, "engrossing" means placing amendments in a bill.

17 **H40-200. Third reading.** (1) All bills, joint resolutions, and Senate amendments to House bills and joint  
18 resolutions passing second reading must be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the  
19 engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

20 (2) Legislation on third reading may not be amended or debated.

21 (3) The Speaker shall state the question on legislation on third reading. If a majority of the  
22 representatives voting does not approve the legislation, it fails to pass third reading.

23 **H40-210. Senate legislation in the House.** Senate legislation properly transmitted to the House must  
24 be treated as House legislation.

25 **H40-220. Senate amendments to House legislation.** (1) When the Senate has properly returned  
26 House legislation with Senate amendments, the House shall announce the amendments on Order of Business  
27 No. 4, and the Speaker shall place them on second reading for debate. The Speaker may rerefer House  
28 legislation with Senate amendments to a committee for a hearing if the Senate amendments constitute a  
29 significant change in the House legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration of the Senate  
30 amendments.

1 (2) If the House accepts Senate amendments, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on  
2 third reading to determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the required vote is obtained.

3 (3) If the House rejects the Senate amendments, the House may request the Senate to recede from  
4 its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the Senate to appoint a like  
5 committee.

6 (4) Conference committees must be composed of an equal number of members from each political  
7 party. The members of conference committees must be appointed by the House Democratic Leader and the  
8 House Republican Leader after good faith consultation. Each leader shall appoint the members of the leader's  
9 respective party. If there is no House Democratic Leader, then the Speaker shall appoint the members.

10 **H40-230. Conference committee reports.** (1) When a House conference committee files a report, the  
11 report must be announced under Order of Business No. 3. A tie vote in a conference committee on the question  
12 of a recommendation to the whole House on a matter referred for a conference results in the matter passing out  
13 to the whole House for consideration without recommendation.

14 (2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the conference committee report on second reading on  
15 any legislative day. The House may reconsider its action in rejecting a conference committee report under rules  
16 for reconsideration, H50-160.

17 (3) If both the House and the Senate adopt the same conference committee report on legislation  
18 requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the House, following approval of the conference committee  
19 report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required  
20 vote is obtained.

21 (4) If the House rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless  
22 dissolved by the Speaker or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

23 (5) A House conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any Senate  
24 conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the House.

25 **H40-240. Enrolling.** (1) When House legislation has passed both houses, it must be enrolled within 48  
26 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for enrolling.

27 (2) The chief sponsor of the legislation shall examine the enrolled legislation and, if it has no enrolling  
28 errors, shall, within 1 legislative day, certify the legislation as correctly enrolled.

29 (3) The correctly enrolled legislation must be delivered to the Speaker, who shall sign the legislation.

30 (4) After the legislation has been reported correctly enrolled but before it is signed, any representative

1 may examine the legislation.

2 **H40-250. Governor's amendments.** (1) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended  
3 amendments, the House shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 5.

4 (2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second  
5 reading on any legislative day.

6 (3) If both the House and the Senate accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that  
7 requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on  
8 third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

9 **H40-260. Governor's veto.** (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the House shall announce  
10 the veto under Order of Business No. 5.

11 (2) On any legislative day, a representative may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds  
12 vote under Order of Business No. 9.

## 13 CHAPTER 5

### 14 Floor Actions

15 **H50-10. Attendance.** (1) A representative, unless excused, is required to be present at every sitting of  
16 the House.

17 (2) A representative may request in writing to be excused for a specified cause by the representative's  
18 party leader. This excused absence is not a leave with cause from a call of the House.

19 **H50-20. Quorum.** (1) A quorum of the House is fifty-one representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. V,  
20 Sec. 10).

21 (2) Any representative may question the lack of a quorum at any time a vote is not being taken. The  
22 question is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is resolved by a roll call.

23 (3) The House may conduct no business without a quorum, except that representatives present may  
24 convene, compel the attendance of absent representatives, or adjourn.

25 **H50-30. Call of the House without a quorum.** (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the  
26 representatives present may compel the attendance of absent representatives through a call of the House  
27 without a quorum. The motion for the call is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time it  
28 has been established that a quorum is not present.

29 (2) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to  
30 adjourn or to remove the call.

1 (3) When a quorum has been achieved under the call, the call is automatically lifted. The call may also  
2 be lifted by adjournment or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

3 **H50-40. Call of the House with a quorum.** (1) If a quorum is present but at least one representative  
4 is excused or absent, one-third of the representatives present and voting may order a call of the House with a  
5 quorum.

6 (2) The motion for a call is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time a vote is not  
7 being taken, except that a call of the House with a quorum is not allowed in the Committee of the Whole.

8 (3) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to  
9 adjourn or to remove the call.

10 (4) When all representatives are present, except those on leave with cause, the call is automatically  
11 lifted. The call may also be lifted by adjournment or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

12 **H50-50. Leave with cause.** (1) During a call of the House, a representative with an overriding medical  
13 or personal reason may request a leave with cause.

14 (2) If the representative is present at the time of the call, the Speaker may approve a request for a leave  
15 with cause.

16 (3) If the representative is not present at the time of the call, two-thirds of the representatives present  
17 and voting may approve a request for leave with cause.

18 (4) During a call of the House, a representative on leave with cause may not cast an absentee vote.

19 **H50-60. Motions.** (1) Any representative may propose a motion allowed by the rules for the order of  
20 business under which the motion is offered for the consideration of the House. Unless otherwise specified in rule  
21 or law, a majority of representatives voting is necessary and sufficient to decide a motion.

22 (2) Seconds to motions on the House floor are not required.

23 (3) Absentee votes are not allowed on votes that are specified as "representatives present and voting".

24 (4) The floor leader of the party of the Speaker shall make routine procedural motions required to  
25 conduct the business of the House.

26 **H50-70. Limits on debate of debatable motions.** (1) Except for the representative who places a  
27 debatable motion before the body, no representative may speak more than once on the question unless a  
28 unanimous House consents. The representative who places the motion may close.

29 (2) No representative may speak for more than 10 minutes on the same question, except that a  
30 representative may have 5 minutes to close.

1           **H50-80. Nondebatable motions.** (1) A representative has the right to understand any question before  
2 the House and, usually under the administration of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

3           (2) The following motions are nondebatable:

4           (a) to adjourn;

5           (b) for a call of the House;

6           (c) to recess or rise;

7           (d) for parliamentary inquiry;

8           (e) to table or take from the table;

9           (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;

10          (g) to amend a nondebatable motion;

11          (h) to divide a question;

12          (i) to postpone consideration to a day certain;

13          (j) to suspend the rules;

14          (k) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature; and

15          (l) to appeal a call to order.

16           **H50-90. Questions.** A representative may, through the presiding officer, ask questions of another  
17 representative during a floor session. There is no limit on questions and answers, except as provided in H20-50.

18           **H50-100. Amending motions -- limitations.** (1) A representative may move to amend the specific  
19 provisions of a motion without changing its substance.

20           (2) No more than one motion to amend a motion is in order at any one time.

21           (3) A motion for a call of the House, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may  
22 not be amended.

23           **H50-110. Substitute motions.** (1) When a question is before the House, no substitute motion may be  
24 made except the following, which have precedence in the order listed:

25           (a) to adjourn;

26           (b) for a call of the House;

27           (c) to recess or rise;

28           (d) for a question of privilege;

29           (e) to table;

30           (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;

1 (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;

2 (h) to refer to a committee; and

3 (i) to propose amendments.

4 (2) Nothing in this section allows a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order  
5 of business.

6 (3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), no more than one substitute motion is in order at any  
7 one time.

8 (b) A motion for cloture is in order on a substitute motion to amend.

9 **H50-120. Withdrawing motions.** A representative who proposes a motion may withdraw it before it is  
10 voted on or amended.

11 **H50-130. Dividing a question.** Except as provided in H40-180, a representative may request to divide  
12 a question as a matter of right if it includes two or more propositions so distinct that they can be separated and  
13 if at least one substantive question remains after one substantive question is removed.

14 **H50-140. Previous question.** (1) If a majority of representatives present and voting adopts a motion  
15 for the previous question, debate is closed on the question and it must be brought to a vote. The Speaker may  
16 not entertain a motion to end debate unless at least one proponent and one opponent have spoken on the  
17 question.

18 (2) Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate  
19 was ended may close.

20 **H50-150. Questions requiring other than a majority vote.** The following questions require the vote  
21 specified for each condition:

22 100 House Members

23 (1) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the tobacco settlement trust fund  
24 (two-thirds);

25 (2) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal severance tax trust fund  
26 (three-fourths);

27 (3) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue, as described in Article VIII, section 6, of  
28 the Montana Constitution, for purposes other than therein described (three-fifths);

29 (4) a motion to approve a bill to authorize creation of state debt (two-thirds);

30 (5) a motion to temporarily suspend a joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills (two-thirds).

- 1 Members Present and Voting
- 2 (1) a motion to override the Governor's veto (two-thirds);
- 3 (2) a call of the House with a quorum (one-third);
- 4 (3) a motion to lift a call of the House (two-thirds);
- 5 (4) a motion to rerefer a bill from one committee to another pursuant to Rule 40-80(1) (three-fifths);
- 6 (5) a motion to withdraw a bill from a committee (three-fifths);
- 7 (6) a motion to add legislation to the second or third reading agenda (three-fifths);
- 8 (7) a motion to remove legislation from its normal progress through the House as provided under ~~these~~
- 9 rules H40-80(3) and reassign it unless otherwise specifically provided by these rules, such as H40-80(2)
- 10 (three-fifths);
- 11 (8) a motion to change a vote (unanimous);
- 12 (9) a motion to call for cloture (two-thirds);
- 13 (10) a motion to take from the table in Committee of the Whole (three-fifths).
- 14 Members Voting
- 15 (1) a motion to amend or suspend rules (two-thirds);
- 16 (2) a motion to overturn an adverse committee report (three-fifths);
- 17 (3) a motion to record a vote (one representative);
- 18 (4) a motion to spread a vote on the journal (two representatives);
- 19 (5) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer (three representatives);
- 20 (6) a motion to speak more than once on a debatable motion (unanimous vote);
- 21 (7) a motion to appeal the presiding officer's interpretation of the rules to the House Rules Committee
- 22 (15 representatives).
- 23 Entire Legislature
- 24 (1) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire
- 25 Legislature).
- 26 **H50-160. Reconsideration.** (1) Any representative may, within 1 legislative day of a vote, move to
- 27 reconsider the House vote on any matter still within the control of the House.
- 28 (2) A motion for reconsideration, unless tabled or replaced by a substitute motion, must be disposed
- 29 of when made.
- 30 (3) When a motion for reconsideration fails, the question is finally settled. A motion for reconsideration

1 may not be renewed or reconsidered.

2 (4) A motion to recall legislation from the Senate constitutes a motion to reconsider and is subject to  
3 the same rules.

4 (5) A motion for reconsideration is not in order on a vote to postpone to a day certain or to table  
5 legislation.

6 (6) There may be only one reconsideration vote on a specific issue on a legislative day.

7 **H50-170. Renewing procedural motions.** The House may renew a procedural motion if further House  
8 business has intervened.

9 **H50-180. Tabling.** (1) Under Order of Business No. 9, a representative may move to table any question,  
10 motion, or legislation before the House except the question of a quorum or a call of the House. The motion is  
11 nondebatable and may not be amended.

12 (2) When a matter has been tabled, a representative may move to take it from the table under Order  
13 of Business No. 9 on any legislative day.

14 **H50-190. Voting.** (1) The representatives shall vote to decide any motion or question properly before  
15 the House. Each representative has one vote.

16 (2) The House may, without objection, use a voice vote on procedural motions that are not required to  
17 be recorded in the journal. If a representative rises and objects, the House shall record the vote.

18 (3) The House shall record the vote on all substantive questions. If the voting system is inoperable, the  
19 Chief Clerk shall record the representatives' votes by other means.

20 (4) A member who is present shall vote unless the member has disclosed a conflict of interest to the  
21 House.

22 **H50-200. Changing a vote.** (1) A representative may move to change the representative's vote within  
23 1 legislative day of the vote. The motion is nondebatable. The motion must be made on Order of Business No.  
24 9, motions. All of the members present and voting are required to consent to the change in order for it to be  
25 effective.

26 (2) The representative making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the question, and the  
27 original vote tally. A vote may not be changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation.

28 (3) A vote change must be entered into the journal as a notation that the member's vote was changed.  
29 The original printed vote will not be reprinted to reflect the change.

30 (4) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote.



- 1 (5) to table or to take from the table;
- 2 (6) to call for the previous question or for cloture;
- 3 (7) to amend a nondebatable motion;
- 4 (8) to divide a question;
- 5 (9) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
- 6 (10) to suspend the rules; and
- 7 (11) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature.

8 **H60-30. Motions allowed during debate.** (1) When a question is under debate, only the following  
9 motions are in order. The motions have precedence in the following order:

- 10 (a) to adjourn;
- 11 (b) for a call of the House;
- 12 (c) to recess or rise;
- 13 (d) for a question of privilege;
- 14 (e) to table or take from the table;
- 15 (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- 16 (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
- 17 (h) to refer or rerefer; and
- 18 (i) to propose amendments.

19 (2) This section does not allow a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order  
20 of business.

21 (3) Only one substitute motion is in order at any time.

22 **H60-40. Motions to adjourn or recess.** (1) A motion to adjourn or recess is always in order, except:

- 23 (a) when the House is voting on another motion;
- 24 (b) when the previous question has been ordered and before the final vote;
- 25 (c) when a member entitled to the floor has not yielded for that purpose; or
- 26 (d) when business has not been transacted after the defeat of a motion to adjourn or recess.

27 (2) The vote by which a motion to adjourn or recess is carried or fails is not subject to a motion to  
28 reconsider.

29 **H60-50. Motion to table.** (1) A motion to table, if carried, has the effect of postponing action on the  
30 proposition to which it was applied until superseded by a motion to take from the table.

1 (2) The vote by which a motion to table is carried or fails cannot be reconsidered.

2 (3) A motion to table is not in order after the previous question has been ordered.

3 **H60-60. Motion to postpone.** A motion to postpone to a day certain may be amended and is debatable  
4 within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion to postpone may not be  
5 debated.

6 **H60-70. Motion to refer.** When a motion is made to refer a subject to a standing committee or select  
7 committee, the question on the referral to a standing committee must be put first.

8 **H60-80. Terms of debate on motion to refer or rerefer.** (1) A motion to refer or rerefer is debatable  
9 within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion may not be debated.

10 (2) A motion to refer or rerefer with instructions is fully debatable.

11 **H60-100. Moving the previous question after a motion to table.** (1) If a motion to table is made  
12 directly to a main motion, a motion for the previous question is not in order.

13 (2) If an amendment to a main motion is pending and a motion to table is made, the previous question  
14 may be called on the main motion, the pending amendment, and the motion to table the amendment.

15 **H60-110. Standard motions.** The following are standard motions:

16 (1) moving House bills or resolutions on second reading, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that when  
17 this committee does rise and report after having under consideration House Bill \_\_\_\_, that it recommend the same  
18 (do pass)/(do pass as amended)/(do not pass)."

19 (2) moving Senate bills and Senate amendments to House bills, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that  
20 when this committee does rise and report after having under consideration Senate Bill \_\_\_\_ /Senate amendments  
21 to House Bill \_\_\_\_, that it recommend the same (be concurred in)/(be not concurred in)."

22 (3) Committee of the Whole floor amendments, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that House Bill  
23 \_\_\_\_ /Senate Bill \_\_\_\_ be amended and request that the amendment be posted and deemed read."

24 (4) introducing visitors, "Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, I request that we be off the record and out  
25 of the journal."

26 (5) changing a vote, "Mister Speaker, I would like my vote changed on House Bill \_\_\_\_ /Senate Bill \_\_\_\_  
27 from (yes/no) to (yes/no). The question on the bill was ( ) with a vote tally of \_\_\_\_ for and \_\_\_\_ against."

28 (6) question another representative, "Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, would Representative \_\_\_\_ yield  
29 to a question?"

30

## CHAPTER 7

1 **Rules**

2 **H70-10. House rules.** (1) The House may adopt, through a House resolution passed by a majority of  
3 its members, rules to govern its proceedings.

4 (2) After adoption of the House rules, two-thirds of the representatives voting must vote in favor of the  
5 question to amend the rules.

6 (3) The Speaker shall refer to the House Rules Committee all resolutions for House rules.

7 (4) The House Rules Committee shall report all resolutions for House rules within 1 legislative day of  
8 referral.

9 **H70-20. Tenure of rules.** Rules adopted by the House remain in effect until removed by House  
10 resolution or until a new House is elected and takes office.

11 **H70-30. Suspension of rules.** The House may suspend a House rule on a motion approved by not less  
12 than two-thirds of the members voting.

13 **H70-40. Supplementary rules.** Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2000) governs House  
14 proceedings in all cases not covered by House rules.

15 **H70-50. Interpreting rules.** The Speaker shall interpret all questions on House rules, subject to appeal  
16 by any 15 representatives to the House Rules Committee. Unless the delay would cause legislation to fail to  
17 meet a scheduled deadline, the House Rules Committee may consider and report on the appeal on the next  
18 legislative day. The decision of the House Rules Committee may be appealed to the House by any  
19 representative.

20 **H70-60. Joint rules superseded.** A House rule, insofar as it relates to the internal proceedings of the  
21 House, supersedes a joint rule.

22

23 **Appendix**

24 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), legislation dealing with an enumerated subject  
25 must be referred to a standing committee as follows:

26 **Agriculture:** Agriculture; country of origin labeling for products; crops; crop insurance; farm subsidies;  
27 fuel produced from grain; grazing (other than state land leases); irrigation; livestock; poultry; and weed control.

28 **Appropriations:** Appropriations for the Legislature, general government, and bonding, including  
29 supplemental appropriations and the coal severance tax.

30 **Business and Labor:** Alcohol regulation other than taxation; associations; corporations; credit

1 transactions; employment; financial institutions; gambling; insurance; labor unions; partnerships; private sector  
2 pensions and pension plans; professions and occupations other than the practice of law; salaries and wages;  
3 sales; secured transactions; securities regulation other than criminal provisions; sports other than hunting,  
4 fishing, and competition water sports; trade regulation; unemployment insurance; the Uniform Commercial Code;  
5 and workers' compensation.

6 **Education:** Higher education; home schools; K-12 education; religion in schools; school buildings and  
7 other structures; school libraries and university system libraries; school safety; school sports; school staff other  
8 than teachers; school transportation; students; teachers; and vocational education and training.

9 **Ethics:** Ethical standards applicable to members, officers, and employees of the House and ethical  
10 standards for lobbyists.

11 **Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications:** Energy generation and transmission; Indian  
12 reservations; international relations; interstate cooperation and compacts, except those relating to law  
13 enforcement and water compacts; relations with the federal government; relations with sovereign Indian tribes;  
14 telecommunications; and utilities other than municipal utilities.

15 **Fish, Wildlife, and Parks:** Fish; fishing; hunting; outdoor recreation; parks other than those owned by  
16 local governments; relations with federal and state governments concerning fish and wildlife; Virginia City and  
17 Nevada City; water sports; and wildlife.

18 **Human Services:** Developmentally disabled persons; disabled persons; health; health and disability  
19 insurance; housing; human services; mental illness or incapacity; retirement other than pensions and pension  
20 plans; senior citizens; tobacco regulation other than taxation; and welfare.

21 **Judiciary:** Abortion; arbitration and mediation; civil procedure; constitutional amendments; consumer  
22 protection; contracts; corrections; courts; criminal law; criminal procedure; discrimination; evidence; family law;  
23 fees imposed by or relating to the court system; guaranty; human rights; impeachment; indemnity; judicial  
24 system; landlord and tenant; law enforcement; liability and immunity from liability; minors; practice of law;  
25 privacy; property law; religion other than in schools; state law library; surety; torts; and trusts and estates.

26 **Legislative Administration:** Interim committees and subjects assigned by H10-50.

27 **Local Government:** Cities; consolidated governments; counties; libraries and parks owned or operated  
28 by local governments; local development; local government finance and revenue; local government officers and  
29 employees, local planning; special districts and other political subdivisions, except school districts; towns; and  
30 zoning.

1           **Natural Resources:** Board of Land Commissioners; dams, except for electrical generation; emission  
2 standards; environmental protection; extractive activities; fires and fire protection, except for a local government  
3 fire department; forests and forestry; hazardous waste; mines and mining; natural gas; natural resources; oil;  
4 pollution; solid waste; state land, except state parks; water and water rights; water bodies and water courses;  
5 and water compacts.

6           **Rules:** House rules; joint rules; legislative procedure; jurisdictions of committees; and rules of decorum.

7           **State Administration:** Administrative rules; arts and antiquities; ballots; elections; initiative and  
8 referendum procedures; military affairs; public contracts and procurement; public employee retirement systems;  
9 state buildings; state employees; state employee benefits; state equipment and property, except state lands and  
10 state parks; state government generally; state-owned libraries other than the state law library; veterans; and  
11 voting.

12           **Taxation:** Taxes other than fuel taxes.

13           **Transportation:** Fuel taxes; highways; railroads; roads; traffic regulation; transportation generally;  
14 vehicles; and vehicle safety.

15           (2) If a select committee is created to address a specific subject, then bills relating to that subject must  
16 be assigned to the select committee.

17           (3) (a) If legislation deals with more than one subject and the subjects are assigned to more than one  
18 committee, the bill must be assigned to a class one committee before a class two committee and to a class two  
19 committee before a class three committee. If there is a conflict of subjects between the same class of  
20 committees, then the bill must be assigned by unanimous agreement of the Speaker, the House Democratic  
21 Leader, and the House Republican Leader.

22           (b) If a bill contains substantive provisions dealing with policy and an appropriation, the bill must be  
23 referred to the committee with jurisdiction over the subject addressed in the policy provisions. If the bill is  
24 reported from the committee to which it was assigned, the Speaker, upon unanimous agreement with the House  
25 Democratic Leader and the House Republican Leader, may rerefer the bill to the Appropriations Committee. The  
26 referral must be announced to the House. The rereferral does not require action or approval by the House, but  
27 may be overturned by a majority vote.

28           (4) If a committee chair upon consultation with the vice chairs determines that the committee cannot  
29 effectively process all bills assigned to the committee because of time limitations, the chair shall, in writing,  
30 request the Speaker to reassign specific bills. The Speaker, upon unanimous agreement with the House

1 Democratic Leader and the House Republican Leader, shall reassign the bills to an appropriate committee. The  
2 reassignments must be announced to the House. The reassignments do not require action or approval by the  
3 House, but may be overturned by a three-fifths vote.

4 - END -