

HB341 Fact Sheet**January 2007**

Prepared by: Karen Nelson, Member, HB540 Task Force
January 17, 2007

For Distribution to House Judiciary Committee by Marty Phippen, Lobbyist for Montana
Association of Clerks of District Court

Background:

HB540 was passed during the 2003 legislative session and provided that "trial jurors be selected from a combined list of qualified electors, licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards..." In 2005 the effective date of HB540 was extended from October 1, 2005 to October 1, 2007 (HB598-2005). This change was made at the request of a number of groups including associations representing Montana District Court Clerks and Montana Clerk and Recorders, the Department of Justice, and the Secretary of State's Office. (HB598-2005). This delay was necessary in light of a number of new information technology systems that were being designed at the time, specifically, the Secretary of State's "Montana Votes" system and the Department of Justice's "MERLIN" system.

In December 2005 a task force was formed to identify the system and process changes needed to successfully create the combined juror list. Members of the task force included Clerks of the District Courts, Clerk and Recorders, and staff from the Department of Justice, Secretary of State's Office and the Office of the Court Administrator. HB341 represents the recommendations of the task force.

What does HB 341 do?

- Provides for the more efficient creation and distribution of the combined juror lists envisioned in HB540 (2003) by permitting the Secretary of State's office to produce the combined list of electors, drivers and holders of identification cards and provide the list directly to the Clerk of the District Court.

Note: The Secretary of State's Office maintains the centralized database of registered electors in the State of Montana. This was not the case in 2003 when each county had its own system for registered electors.

- Clarifies that the public juror list posted for review by each Clerk of the District Court include only the name, address and birth year of the qualified juror.
- Makes minor changes in when the Department of Justice must provide the list of licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards to the Secretary of State's Office (April instead of May).
- Provides for changes in current statutes (not related to HB 540) to reflect the current practices of producing and preparing jury lists. The current practices are in place as a result of the implementation of Montana Votes.

Prepared by: Shirley E. Faust, Chair, HB540 Task Force
Updated January 16, 2007
For Distribution to House Judiciary Committee by Marty Phippen, Lobbyist for Montana
Association of Clerks of District Court

HB 341 FACT SHEET

Purpose:

Revise the laws relating to the preparation of juror lists. The proposed changes provide for a more streamlined process for implementing HB540 (from the 2003 legislative session).

Background:

HB540 was passed during the 2003 legislative session and provided that "trial jurors be selected from a combined list of qualified electors, licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards..." In 2005 the effective date of HB540 was extended from October 1, 2005 to October 1, 2007 (HB598-2005). This change was made at the request of a number of groups including associations representing Montana District Court Clerks and Montana Clerk and Recorders, the Department of Justice, and the Secretary of State's Office. (HB598-2005)

In December 2005 a task force was formed to identify the tasks necessary to successfully create and use the combined list for the selection of jurors in trial courts throughout Montana. The task force has met four (4) times.

Members of the task force include:

Shirley Faust, Missoula County Clerk of Court, Chair
Lori Malone, Silver Bow County Clerk of Court
Mary McMahan, Silver Bow County Clerk and Recorder
Greg Noose, Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division
Elaine Graveley, Office of the Secretary of State
James Thomas, Office of the Secretary of State
Mark Van Alstyne, Office of the Secretary of State
Karen Nelson, Office of the Court Administrator, Court Technology Program
Dana Corson, Office of the Court Administrator, Court Technology Program

HB540 envisioned that the Department of Justice would provide a certified list of licensed drivers and identification holders to each county Clerk of the District Court (61-5-127, MCA). The Clerk of the District Court would provide that list to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State would combine the Department of Justice list with the current list of registered electors, remove duplicates and then provide the list to the County Commissioners and Clerk and Recorders in each county to certify the list for use

by the Clerk of District Court (3-15-402, MCA). The Secretary of State would then provide the list to the Clerk of the District Court (3-15-403, MCA). The Clerk of the District Court would then draw juror lists for all courts within the county (3-15-404, MCA and 46-17-202, MCA). Statutory language requiring the Clerk and Recorder to maintain a list of all persons permanently excused from jury service in the county remained in statute (3-15-402 (2), MCA).

One of the first issues the HB540 Task Force wrestled with was the HB540 process flow. Several key observations were made:

- 1) The Secretary of State's Office has implemented a new statewide voter system called "Montana Votes" as required by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This system was implemented in the spring of 2006. The Montana Votes system is a central system located in Helena and replaces a variety of county systems used by Clerk and Recorders to register voters. The Montana Votes system was used to produce jury lists for the 2006 term.
- 2) One requirement of HAVA is to verify and validate the identities of persons registering to vote. In the fall of 2005, the SOS and the DOJ entered into a Memorandum of Understanding permitting the SOS to use DOJ driver license data to verify social security numbers and physical addresses. Consequently, the DOJ is already providing a list of drivers and identification card holders to the SOS.
- 3) The DOJ is also in the midst of a major system upgrade. The DOJ project is called "MERLIN" and is expected to be operational in the spring of 2008.

All Task Force members agreed that the most logical way to create the combined list was for the DOJ to provide the information to the SOS and for the SOS to provide the combined list directly to the Clerk of the District Court. This streamlined process eliminates the involvement of the County Clerk and Recorder and Board of County Commissioners. The Clerks of the District Court have drafted HB 341 to make these modifications.

HB 341 also provides for changes in current statutes (not related to HB 540) to reflect the current practices of producing and preparing jury lists. The current practices are in place as a result of the implementation of Montana Votes.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS OF HB 341

Prepared by: Shirley E. Faust, Chair, HB540 Task Force
January 22, 2007

For Distribution to House Judiciary Committee by Marty Phippen, Lobbyist for Montana
Association of Clerks of District Court

HOUSE BILL NO. 341

INTRODUCED BY D. GALLIK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE LAWS RELATING TO THE PREPARATION OF JUROR LISTS; AMENDING SECTIONS 3-15-402, 3-15-403, 3-15-404, 46-17-202, AND 61-5-127, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 3-15-401, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 3-15-402, MCA, is amended to read:

"3-15-402. (Temporary) Selection of qualified persons. ~~(1) Subject to subsection (2), at the meeting specified in 3-15-401, the officers present~~ The secretary of state shall select from the most recent list of all registered electors, ~~as prepared by the county registrar,~~ and make a list of the names of all persons qualified to serve as trial jurors, as prescribed in part 3 of this chapter. Each name appearing on the list must be assigned a number that must be placed opposite the name on the jury list and must be considered the number of the juror opposite whose name it appears. A person's name may not appear on a jury list for more than one court during a 1-year term.

~~(2) The list prepared under subsection (1) may not include the name of a person permanently excluded from jury service under 3-15-313.~~

This statute has been amended to provide for the Secretary of State to distribute the list of registered voters to the Clerk of District Court. With the implementation of the statewide voter registration system, Montana Votes, in 2006, the County Clerk & Recorder no longer has the ability to provide a list of registered voters to the Clerk of District Court. Therefore, the Clerk & Recorder and Board of County Commissioners should be removed from the process. This change in statute accurately reflects what we already do in practice.

Subsection (2) has been deleted and added under Section 3 below.

3-15-402. (Effective October 1, 2007) Selection of qualified persons. ~~(1) Subject to subsection (2), at the meeting specified in 3-15-401, the officers present, working with the office of the The secretary of state, shall select from the most recent list of all registered electors, as prepared by the county registrar, working with the office of the secretary of state, and make a list of the names of all persons qualified to serve as trial jurors, as prescribed in part 3 of this chapter. The officers, working with the office of the secretary of state, shall then combine the resulting list with the list submitted to the clerk of the district court secretary of state under 61-5-127, ensuring that a person's name does not appear on the combined list more than once. Each name appearing on the combined list must be assigned a number that must be placed opposite the name on the combined list and must be considered the number of the juror opposite whose name it appears. A person's name may not appear on a combined list for more than one court during a 1-year term.~~

~~(2) The combined list prepared under subsection (1) may not include the name of a person permanently excluded from jury service under 3-15-313."~~

This statute has been amended to provide for the Secretary of State to provide the list of registered voters to the Clerk of District Court. With the implementation of the statewide voter registration system, Montana Votes, in 2006, the County Clerk & Recorder no longer has the ability to provide a list of registered voters to the Clerk of District Court. Therefore, the Clerk & Recorder and Board of County Commissioners should be removed from the process.

Subsection (2) has been deleted and added under Section 3.

Section 2. Section 3-15-403, MCA, is amended to read:

"3-15-403. (Temporary) Lists delivered to clerk Jury lists -- filing -- public inspection. ~~(1) A list of the names of the persons selected, showing the place of residence and other proper particulars regarding each of them, so far as those particulars can be conveniently ascertained, must be made out and signed by the officers or a majority of them. Within 15 days after the meeting, the list must be delivered by those officers to the clerk of the district court and filed by the clerk in the clerk's office. (1) On or before the first Monday in May, the list prepared under 3-15-402 must be delivered by the secretary of state to the clerk of the district court and filed by the clerk of the district court in the clerk of the district court's office no later than 5 business days after the receipt of the list.~~

~~(2) A copy of the latest jury list lists filed under subsection (1) and compiled under 3-15-404 and 46-17-202 and a description of the approved computerized random selection process, if one is used, must be~~

kept in the office of the clerk of the district court, and An excerpt, listing the name, address, and birth year of all jurors, must be made available for public inspection during normal business hours.

~~(3) If the clerk of court is satisfied that a person whose name is drawn is deceased or mentally incompetent or has permanently moved from the county, the name of the person must be omitted from the jury list. The reason for the omission must be entered in the minutes of the court.~~

This statute has been retitled to be the same as the new section established under HB 540 in the 2003 legislative session.

It provides for the Secretary of State to deliver the list of registered electors to the Clerk of District Court on or before the first Monday in May. This allows for the jury selection process to begin a month earlier so that jury terms can potentially run concurrent with the county's fiscal year. Currently, the process begins with the delivery of the list by the Clerk and Recorder to the Clerk of District Court on the second Monday in June. It is virtually impossible to print, stuff, mail and process enough jury questionnaires to begin the jury term July 1. Again, with the implementation of the statewide voter registration system, Montana Votes, the County Clerk & Recorder no longer has the ability to provide a list of registered voters to the Clerk of District Court. Therefore, the Clerk & Recorder and Board of County Commissioners should be removed from the process. This change in statute accurately reflects what we already do in practice.

To provide clarity and protect a juror's personal information, the broad term "proper particulars" has been removed under subsection (1) and replaced with "an excerpt of only names, addresses and birth year of jurors" under subsection (2).

Subsection (3) has been removed from this section and added under Section 3.

3-15-403. (Effective October 1, 2007) Jury lists -- filing -- public inspection. (1) ~~The~~ On or before the first Monday in May, the combined list prepared under 3-15-402 must be delivered by the office of the secretary of state to the clerk of the district court and filed by the clerk of the district court in the clerk of the district court's office no later than 5 business days after the receipt of the combined list.

(2) A copy of the latest jury lists filed under subsection (1) and compiled under 3-15-404 and 46-17-202 and a description of the approved computerized random selection process, if one is used, must be kept in the office of the clerk of the district court, and An excerpt, listing the name, address, and birth year of all jurors, must be made available for public inspection during normal business hours."

This statute has been amended to provide for the Secretary of State to deliver the combined list to the Clerk of District Court on or before the first Monday in May. This allows for the jury

selection process to begin a month earlier so that jury terms can potentially run concurrent with the county's fiscal year. Currently, the process begins with the delivery of the list by the Clerk and Recorder to the Clerk of District Court on the second Monday in June. It is virtually impossible to print, stuff, mail and process enough jury questionnaires to begin the jury term July 1.

To protect a juror's personal information "an excerpt listing the name, address and birth year of all jurors" has been added to subsection (2).

Section 3. Section 3-15-404, MCA, is amended to read:

"3-15-404. (Temporary) Duty of jury commissioner -- jury box or computer database. (1) The clerk of court is the jury commissioner and may appoint a deputy pursuant to 7-4-2401.

(2) A county jury commissioner may by order establish the use of either a jury box, as provided in subsection (3), or a computer database, as provided in subsection (4), as the means for selecting jurors in the county.

(3) If a county uses a jury box for selection of jurors, the jury commissioner shall prepare and keep a jury box and contents as prescribed in this subsection. The number of each juror must be written, typed, or stamped on a slip of paper or other suitable material, identical in all respects to the slips used for the other numbers. The slips must be placed in a box of ample size to permit them to be thoroughly mixed. The box must be plainly marked "jury box". The slips may be used as often as necessary, except that none may be used that is in any manner defaced or disfigured or so marked that it may be recognized or distinguished from the others in the jury box except by the number on the slip. The box may contain only one slip for each number corresponding to the number before the name of each juror on the jury list filed under 3-15-403.

(4) If a county uses a computer database for selection of jurors, the jury commissioner shall cause the list of jurors prepared filed under ~~the provisions of 3-15-402~~ 3-15-403 to be entered into a computerized database.

(5) A person's name may not appear on a jury list for more than one court during a 1-year term.

(6) The clerk of court shall prepare a list of persons to serve as trial jurors for the ensuing year for the district court or each division of the district court. On or before the second Monday of June, the clerk of court shall prepare the jury list pursuant to 46-17-202.

(7) If the clerk of court is satisfied that a person whose name is drawn is deceased, is mentally incompetent, has permanently moved from the county, or has been permanently excused under the provisions of 3-15-313, the person's name must be omitted from the jury list. The reason for the omission must be recorded.

This section has been amended to add subsections (5), (6) and (7), making it the same as the new section established under HB 540 in the 2003 legislative session. With the implementation of Montana Votes, the list of registered voters will be provided to the Clerk of Court by the Secretary of State. The Clerk of Court is now charged with preparing the list of persons to serve as trial jurors for the ensuing year. Additionally, this change in statute accurately reflects what the Clerks of District Court already do in practice.

3-15-404. (Effective October 1, 2007) Duty of jury commissioner -- jury box or computer database. (1) The clerk of court is the jury commissioner and may appoint a deputy pursuant to 7-4-2401.

(2) A county jury commissioner may by order establish the use of either a jury box, as provided in subsection (3), or a computer database, as provided in subsection (4), as the means for selecting jurors in the county.

(3) If a county uses a jury box for selection of jurors, the jury commissioner shall prepare and keep a jury box and contents as prescribed in this subsection. The number of each juror must be written, typed, or stamped on a slip of paper or other suitable material, identical in all respects to the slips used for the other numbers. The slips must be placed in a box of ample size to permit them to be thoroughly mixed. The box must be plainly marked "jury box". The slips may be used as often as necessary, except that none may be used that is in any manner defaced or disfigured or so marked that it may be recognized or distinguished from the others in the jury box except by the number on the slip. The box may contain only one slip for each number corresponding to the number before the name of each juror on the jury list filed under 3-15-403.

(4) If a county uses a computer database for selection of jurors, the jury commissioner shall cause the list of jurors filed under 3-15-403 to be entered into a computerized database.

(5) A person's name may not appear on a jury list for more than one court during a 1-year term.

(6) The clerk of court shall prepare a jury list of persons to serve as ial jurors for the ensuing year for the district court or each division of the district court. On or before the second Monday of June, the clerk of court shall prepare the jury list pursuant to 46-17-202.

(7) If the clerk of court is satisfied that a person whose name is drawn is deceased, is mentally incompetent, or has permanently moved from the county, or has been permanently excused under the provisions of 3-15-313, the person's name must be omitted from the jury list. The reason for the omission must be entered in the minutes of the court recorded."

This section has been amended to add better language to subsection (6) regarding the list of trial jurors. It also gives the statutory authority for the Clerks of District Court to prepare the list of jurors for the courts of limited jurisdiction. The statutes will accurately reflect what the Clerks of District Court are already doing in practice.

Subsection (7) has been amended to incorporate the language that has been deleted under Section 1, 3-15-402 (2). The names of persons who have previously been permanently excused from jury service must be excluded before preparing the list of trial jurors for the ensuing year. The Montana Votes system does not have this functionality. The current jury program used by the Clerks of District Court, and supported by the Office of the Court Administrator, has the functionality to meet this requirement.

Section 4. Section 46-17-202, MCA, is amended to read:

"46-17-202. (Temporary) Formation of trial jury for justices', municipal, and city courts. (1) At the time of preparing the district court jury list under 3-15-404(6), ~~the county commissioners and clerk and recorder~~ clerk of the district court shall prepare a jury list for each justice's, municipal, and city court within the county. Each list must consist of residents of the appropriate county, city, or town. The lists must be selected in any reasonable manner that ensures fairness, and each list must include a number of names sufficient to meet the annual jury requirements of the respective court. Additional lists may be prepared if required. The lists must be filed in the office of the clerk of the district court as provided in 3-15-403. The appropriate list must be posted in a public place in each county, city, or town, and the list must comprise the trial jury list for the ensuing year for the county, city, or town.

(2) Trial jurors must be summoned from the jury list by notifying each one orally that the person is summoned and of the time and place at which attendance is required.

This section has been amended to provide for the Clerk of District Court to prepare the jury lists for the courts of limited jurisdiction. With the implementation of the statewide voter registration system, Montana Votes, in 2006, the County Clerk & Recorder no longer has the

ability to provide the lists for the courts of limited jurisdiction. This change accurately reflects what many of the Clerks of District Court are already doing in practice.

46-17-202. (Effective October 1, 2007) Formation of trial jury for justices', municipal, and city courts. (1) At the time of preparing the district court jury list under 3-15-404(6), the clerk of the district court shall prepare a jury list for each justice's, municipal, and city court within the county. Each list must consist of residents of the appropriate county, city, or town. The lists must be selected in any reasonable manner that ensures fairness, and each list must include a number of names sufficient to meet the annual jury requirements of the respective court. Additional lists may be prepared if required. The lists must be ~~kept on file~~ filed in the office of the clerk of the district court as provided in 3-15-403. The appropriate list must be posted in a public place in each county, city, or town, and the list must comprise the trial jury list for the ensuing year for the county, city, or town.

(2) Trial jurors must be summoned from the jury list by notifying each one orally that the person is summoned and of the time and place at which attendance is required."

This section has been amended to reflect minor changes in language.

Section 5. Section 61-5-127, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-5-127. (Effective October 1, 2007) Providing lists of licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards to clerks of district court -- jury selection purposes. (1) On the second Monday of ~~May~~ April of each year, the department shall submit to the ~~clerk of the district court of each county~~ secretary of state a list, prepared from the department's databases of licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards, showing the name, address, and date of birth of all licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards, authorized by 61-12-501, who are 18 years of age or older and whose address is in that county. The list must be compiled on a county-by-county basis and be further divided by the city of residence of the persons named on the list to enable the drawing of lists for city courts that are composed of only those residents living within a city's jurisdiction. The list must be provided for the exclusive purpose of making a list of persons to serve as trial jurors for the ensuing year.

(2) The list submitted by the department under subsection (1) must be certified by the attorney general or the attorney general's designee.

(3) The department may not provide the social security or driver's license numbers of persons on the list for any purpose."

This section has been amended to reflect an earlier delivery date of the list of licensed drivers and Montana identification card holders. The list will be delivered in April instead of May.

It also provides for the Department of Justice to deliver the list of licensed drivers and Montana identification card holders to the Secretary of State rather than the Clerk of District Court. Under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the Department of Justice is already providing driver license data to the Secretary of State to verify social security numbers and physical addresses of registered voters. A subset of this data will be used and combined with the registered voter data to produce the combined list under Section 1.

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Repealer. Section 3-15-401, MCA, is repealed.

This section repeals 3-15-401. With the implementation of the statewide voter registration system, Montana Votes, in 2006, the County Clerk & Recorder no longer has the ability to provide a list of registered voters to the Clerk of District Court. Therefore, the Clerk & Recorder and Board of County Commissioners should be removed from the process.

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

This bill is effective upon passage and approval. The jury selection process begins in May 2007 and the process needs to follow statute. But in order for that to happen, the amendments surrounding the new statewide voter registration system, Montana Votes, must be in place.

- END -

HB 341 TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for the record my name is Shirley Faust, F-A-U-S-T, and I am the Missoula County Clerk of District Court. I am also a member of the Legislative Committee of the Montana Association of Clerks of District Court and the chair person of the HB 540 Task Force.

I am here today to ask for your support for HB 341, a bill submitted at the request of the legislative committee of the Montana Association of Clerks of District Court and also endorsed by members of the HB 540 Task Force. I would like thank Senator Wanzenried for carrying this bill in the Senate for us.

HB 341 serves two purposes;

- 1) The first is to amend the statutes relative to the implementation of HB 540 from the 2003 legislative session.
- 2) The second is to amend the current statutes to reflect what the Clerks of District Courts are already doing in practice.

HB 540 was passed in the 2003 legislative session and, in short, provides that "trial jurors must be selected from a combined list of qualified electors and licensed drivers and holders of Montana identification cards". Currently the trial jurors are selected from only qualified electors. In December 2004 representatives from the Department of Justice, Secretary of State, Office of the Court Administrator, Clerks of District Court and Clerks & Recordors met to discuss the implementation of HB 540 which had an effective date of October 1, 2005. Very early on in that first meeting, we discovered that agencies, at that time, truly did not have the systems in place to meet the statutory requirements of this bill. Therefore, HB 598 was introduced and passed in the 2005 legislative session to move the effective date to October 1, 2007.

The HB 540 Task Force, comprised of the aforementioned agencies, was formed and began meeting in December of 2005. This task force was formed to identify the system

and process changes needed to successfully create the combined juror list. Without going into too much detail, HB 540 envisioned the following process:

- 1) The Department of Justice would provide a certified list of licensed drivers and identification card holders to the Clerk of District Court.
- 2) The Clerk of District Court would forward that list to the Secretary of State.
- 3) The Clerk & Recorder would provide a list of registered electors to the Secretary of State.
- 4) The Secretary of State would then combine the Department of Justice list with the Clerk & Recorder list, remove duplicates and forward the combined list to the Board of County Commissioners and Clerk & Recorder to certify the list for use by the Clerk of District Court.
- 5) The Secretary of State would then provide the combined list to the Clerk of District Court.
- 6) The Clerk of District Court would then draw the trial juror lists for the ensuing year.
- 7) Statutory language requiring the Clerk and Recorder to maintain a list of all persons permanently excused from jury service remained in statute.

So of one of the first issues the HB 540 Task Force wrestled with was the process flow. Several key observations were made by the Task Force.

- Observation #1 - The Secretary of State's Office has implemented a new statewide voter registration system called "Montana Votes" in compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This system was implemented in the spring of 2006. The Montana Votes system is a central system located in Helena and replaces a variety of county systems used by Clerks & Recorders to register voters. The Clerks and Recorders no longer have the ability to produce the list of qualified electors required by statute. In fact, the Montana Votes system was used to produce jury lists for the current 2006 jury term. Since this list is now provided by the Secretary of State it is no longer necessary for the Clerk and Recorder or Board of County Commissioners to be involved in the jury selection process. It should also be noted that the Montana Votes system does not have the

functionality to maintain a list of persons who have been permanently excused from jury service. However, the Clerk of District Court systems do have the functionality to maintain such a list.

- Observation #2 - One requirement of HAVA is to verify and validate the identities of persons registering to vote. In the fall of 2005, the Secretary of State and the Department of Justice entered into a Memorandum of Understanding permitting the Secretary of State to use Department of Justice driver license data to verify social security numbers and physical addresses. Consequently, the Department of Justice is already providing a list of drivers and identification card holders to the Secretary of State. It therefore only makes sense that the list of licensed drivers and Montana identification card holders would be provided by the Department of Justice directly to the Secretary of State rather than the Clerk of District Court.
- Observation #3 - The Department of Justice is also in the midst of a major system upgrade. The Department of Justice project is called "MERLIN" and is expected to be operational in the spring of 2008.

From these observations, all Task Force members agree that the most logical and efficient way to create the combined list is

1. For the Department of Justice to provide their information directly to the Secretary of State on the second Monday in April;
2. For the Secretary of State to combine the Department of Justice information with the registered voter information from the Montana Votes system and remove duplicates and provide the combined list to the Clerk of District Court on or before the first Monday in May;
3. For the Clerk of District Court to prepare the list of trial jurors for the ensuing year for the District Court and to prepare the list of trial jurors for the courts of limited jurisdiction on or before the second Monday of June.

I sincerely believe that the efforts of the HB 540 Task Force have produced the most efficient, streamlined process for providing the Clerk of District Court with qualified

jurors and I am very proud of the work we accomplished. I may be somewhat biased in my observations but I think this collaborative effort on the part of three state agencies and two local government agencies serves as a model for how government can and should work. This collaboration produced an excellent end product, which is what you see before you today in HB 341 and I, again, ask for your support in passing this bill.

Thank you.