

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 557

2 INTRODUCED BY J. O'NEIL

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW POLITICAL PARTIES TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE
5 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES; AMENDING SECTION 3-10-201, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 13-35-231, MCA; AND
6 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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10 **Section 1.** Section 3-10-201, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"3-10-201. Election.** (1) Each justice of the peace must be elected by the qualified electors of the county
12 at the general state election immediately preceding the expiration of the term of office of the justice of the peace's
13 predecessor.

14 (2) A justice of the peace must be nominated and elected on the nonpartisan judicial ballot in the same
15 manner as judges of the district court.

16 (3) Each judicial office must be a separate and independent office for election purposes, each office must
17 be numbered by the county commissioners, and each candidate for justice of the peace shall specify the number
18 of the office for which the candidate seeks to be elected. A candidate may not file for more than one office.

19 ~~(4) Section 13-35-231, prohibiting political party endorsement for judicial officers, applies to justices of~~
20 ~~the peace."~~

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22 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Repealer.** The following section of the Montana Code Annotated is
23 repealed:

24 13-35-231. Unlawful for political party to endorse judicial candidate.

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26 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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