

HOUSE BILL NO. 142

INTRODUCED BY D. SANDS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES AND REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE; REQUIRING INTERIM COMMITTEES TO REVIEW THE ADVISORY COUNCILS AND REQUIRED REPORTS OF THEIR ASSIGNED AGENCIES TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RETENTION OR ELIMINATION; REVISING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 5-5-215 AND 5-11-210, MCA."

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

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12 **Section 1.** Section 5-5-215, MCA, is amended to read:

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"5-5-215. Duties of interim committees. (1) Each interim committee shall:

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(a) review administrative rules within its jurisdiction;

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(b) subject to 5-5-217(3), conduct interim studies as assigned;

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(c) monitor the operation of assigned executive branch agencies with specific attention to the following:

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(i) identification of issues likely to require future legislative attention;

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(ii) opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems experienced with the application

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of the law by an agency; and

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(iii) experiences of the state's citizens with the operation of an agency that may be amenable to

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improvement through legislative action;

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(d) review advisory councils and required reports of assigned agencies to make recommendations to

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the next legislature on retention or elimination of any advisory council or required reports pursuant to 5-11-210;

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~~(d)~~(e) review proposed legislation of assigned agencies or entities as provided in the joint legislative

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rules; and

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~~(e)~~(f) accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon its assignment and relevant

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to existing or prospective legislation as it determines, on its own initiative, to be pertinent to the adequate

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completion of its work.

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(2) Each interim committee shall prepare bills and resolutions that, in its opinion, the welfare of the state

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may require for presentation to the next regular session of the legislature.

1 (3) The legislative services division shall keep accurate records of the activities and proceedings of each
2 interim committee."

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4 **Section 2.** Section 5-11-210, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"5-11-210. Clearinghouse for reports to legislature.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "report"
6 means a written report required by law to be given to or filed with the legislature.

7 (2) On or before September 1 of each year preceding the convening of a regular session of the
8 legislature, an entity required to report to the legislature shall provide, in writing, to the appropriate interim or
9 statutory committee:

10 (a) the final title of the report;

11 (b) an abstract or description of the contents of the report, not to exceed 100 words;

12 (c) if the report is available electronically, its location on the internet; and

13 ~~(c)(d)~~ a recommendation on how many paper copies of the report, if any, should be provided to the
14 legislature;

15 ~~—— (d) the reasons why the number of copies recommended is, in the opinion of the reporting entity, the~~
16 ~~appropriate number of copies; and~~

17 ~~—— (e) an estimated cost for each copy of the report.~~

18 (3) After considering all of the information available about the report, including the number of legislators
19 requesting copies of the report pursuant to subsection (7), the appropriate interim or statutory committee shall,
20 in writing, direct the reporting entity to provide a specific number of paper copies. The number of copies required
21 is at the sole discretion of the appropriate interim or statutory committee. The appropriate interim or statutory
22 committee may require the reporting entity to mail the copies of the report.

23 (4) The appropriate interim or statutory committee may require that the report be submitted in an
24 electronic format that is usable on the legislature's current computer hardware; or in a microform, ~~such as~~
25 ~~microfilm or microfiche, or in a CD-ROM format, meaning compact disc read-only memory~~ digital form.

26 (5) Costs of preparing and distributing a report to the legislature, including writing, printing, postage,
27 distribution, and all other costs, accrue to the reporting agency. Costs incurred in meeting the requirements of
28 this section may not accrue to the legislative services division.

29 (6) The executive director of the legislative services division shall cause to be prepared a list of all reports
30 required to be presented to the legislature from the list of titles received under subsection (2).

