

SENATE BILL NO. 97

INTRODUCED BY J. PRIEST

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V, SECTION 3, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ELECTION OF LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE WHEN THE SIZE OF THE LEGISLATURE IS CHANGED."

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

Section 1. Article V, section 3, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:

"Section 3. Election and terms. (1) A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term of two years and, subject to subsection (2), a member of the senate for a term of four years each to begin on a date provided by law. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years unless the size of the legislature is changed as authorized in Article V, section 2.

(2) If the size of the legislature is changed, the legislation or districting plan changing the size of the legislature must provide for a transition so that one-half of the members of the senate may be elected at the next election."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Two-thirds vote required.** Because [section 1] is a legislative proposal to amend the constitution, Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana constitution requires an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members of the legislature, whether one or more bodies, for passage.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Submission to electorate.** [This act] shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2014 by printing on the ballot the full title of [this act] and the following:

- YES to allowing less than one-half of the members of the senate to be elected when the size of the legislature is changed.
- NO to allowing less than one-half of the members of the senate to be elected when the size of the legislature is changed.

- END -

