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STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 5
Date 3/8/2013
Bill No. HB 30

March 8, 2013

TO: Senate State Administration Committee
FROM: Bill Roberts, AARP Montana
RE: Opposition to HB 30

Madame Chair, Members of the Committee, for the record, I am Bill Roberts a volunteer advocate with AARP Montana. We are a non-partisan organization of approximately 155,000 members here in Montana.

AARP Montana opposes HB 30. We believe that voting systems should maximize voter participation and same day registration does just that. I have served as an Election Judge for many years and there are very good reasons for voters needing to register on Election Day -- and, it is not due to their lack of responsibility as a voter. Just to name a few:

- they registered when renewing their driver's license but were not on voting list
- their names are erroneously missing from voting list
- may have been ill or somewhat incapacitated and not realized there is a problem with their registration until they arrive at the polls
- have recently moved to an assisted living home in another county and, during the trauma of that move, did not remember to update their registration

Should we disenfranchise these voters? We think not. AARP does not want to see our right to vote jeopardized in any way. Therefore, we oppose HB 30 and hope that you will do the same.