

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 615

2 INTRODUCED BY M. MACDONALD

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA AN  
5 AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 5, OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE A  
6 THREE-FIFTHS VOTE OF EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE IN ORDER TO REFER A LEGISLATIVE ACT  
7 TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE STATE."

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

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11 **Section 1.** Article III, section 5, of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended to read:  
12 **"Section 5. Referendum.** (1) The people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the legislature  
13 except an appropriation of money. A referendum shall be held either upon order by the legislature, as provided  
14 in subsection (3), or upon petition signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least  
15 one-third of the legislative representative districts. The total number of signers must be at least five percent of  
16 the qualified electors of the state. A referendum petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than six  
17 months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act.

18 (2) An act referred to the people is in effect until suspended by petitions signed by at least 15 percent of  
19 the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts. If so suspended the act shall become  
20 operative only after it is approved at an election, the result of which has been determined and declared as  
21 provided by law.

22 (3) A bill for an act referring a proposed statute or statutory amendment to the qualified electors of the  
23 state must be adopted by an affirmative roll call vote of three-fifths of the members of each house of the  
24 legislature."

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

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30 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Submission to electorate.** [This act] shall be submitted to the qualified

1 electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2014 by printing on the ballot the full title of

2 [this act] and the following:

3  YES on Constitutional Amendment No. \_\_\_\_\_

4  NO on Constitutional Amendment No. \_\_\_\_\_

5 - END -