

**Request to divide a question.** A request to divide a question is a privilege, not a motion. If a question involves two or more propositions so distinct that they can be separated and at least one substantive question remains after one substantive question is removed, the question may be divided. The request is nondebatable. The presiding officer may rule that a question is nondivisible.

**Motion to reconsider.** A motion to bring up a bill previously voted on but that has not yet been reported from the committee. The motion to reconsider action is usually made for the purpose of attempting to change a prior committee vote or to allow reconsideration of adopted or defeated amendments. Proxies may be used for a motion to reconsider.

### Helpful Tips

- \* A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required.
- \* If a fiscal note is required, a committee cannot report the bill out of the committee without the fiscal note. For amended fiscal notes, see JR 40-100.
- \* A committee may request a substitute bill that strikes every section in the bill and replaces them with new material if the new material is relevant to the title and subject of the original bill. The substitute bill is an amendment.

### Committee Rules

Joint Rules -- Chapter 30  
House Rules -- Chapter 3  
Senate Rules -- Chapter 3

Other motions that are allowed but are rarely used because they will consume Committee of the Whole time and resources:

- do not pass;
- do not pass as amended;
- be not concurred in (bill from other house); and
- be not concurred in as amended (bill from other house).



# Motions in Committee



Montana  
Legislature

EXHIBIT

3

DATE

1/7/15

HB

n/a

# Common Motions in Session Standing Committees

**Do pass.** The bill (in the originating house) is recommended to be placed on second reading as received by the committee.

*“I move that \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ do pass.”*

**To amend.** The motion is to propose to change the bill in a specified manner.

*“I move an amendment (sometimes it is necessary to refer to the number in the lower corner) to \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**Do pass as amended.** The bill (in the originating house) is recommended to be placed on second reading with amendments adopted by the committee to be engrossed into the second reading copy.

*“I move that \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ do pass as amended.”*

**To table.** A nondebatable motion to set aside consideration of a bill. The bill remains in committee and is not reported to the floor. This motion is often used to finally dispose of a bill without requiring consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

*“I move that \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be tabled.”*

**To take from the table.** A motion to resume the consideration of a bill previously set aside by a majority of the committee members present (proxies not allowed). The motion is nondebatable. Previously adopted amendments come with the bill when it is taken from the table.

*“I move to take \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ from the table.”*

**Postpone action.** Consideration of the bill is delayed, often to a date certain. Sometimes an explanation is provided.

*“I move to postpone action on \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ until (a date certain).”*

**Previous question.** A motion to stop debate and vote on the motion. This motion is nondebatable.

*“I call the question.”*

**Be concurred in.** The bill received from the other house is recommended to be placed on second reading in the form received by the committee.

*“I move that \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be concurred in.”*

**Be concurred in as amended.** The bill received from the other house is recommended to be placed on second reading with amendments adopted by the committee to be engrossed into the second reading copy.

*“I move that \_\_\_\_\_ Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ be concurred in as amended.”*

**To segregate.** A motion usually used to separate amendments for voting purposes.

*“I move to segregate amendment(s) No. \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**Substitute motion.** A motion to substitute one motion for another. If passed, the original motion may be moot. If the substitute motion does not pass, the committee should move to the previous motion.

*“I move to substitute motion (name of original motion) for a motion to (name of new motion).”*