

HOUSE BILL NO. 353  
INTRODUCED BY MCGILLVRAY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RECORDING AND TRANSCRIPTION BY A PEACE OFFICER OF A TELEPHONIC APPLICATION BY THE PEACE OFFICER FOR A SEARCH WARRANT; AND AMENDING SECTION 46-5-222, MCA."

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

**Section 1.** Section 46-5-222, MCA, is amended to read:

**"46-5-222. Search warrants issued by telephone.** (1) Whenever ~~the~~ an application for a search warrant is made by telephone, the applicant shall, in addition to the requirements contained in 46-5-221, state reasons to justify immediate issuance of a search warrant.

(2) All testimony given over the telephone that is intended to support an application for a search warrant must be given on oath or affirmation and must identify the person testifying. For the purpose of this section, the judge is authorized to administer an oath or affirmation by telephone.

(3) (a) Sworn or affirmed testimony given over the telephone must be electronically recorded by the judge or a peace officer on a recording device in the custody of the judge or peace officer when the application is made.

(b) If the recording is made by the judge, the recording must be retained in the court records and must be transcribed verbatim as soon as possible after the application is made. The recording must include the time and date it was recorded.

(c) If the recording is made by a peace officer, the recording must be transcribed verbatim as soon as possible after the application for the warrant is made by the peace officer. The recording must contain the time and date when it was recorded. The peace officer making the recording shall, as soon as possible, provide the judge with the original recording and a transcription of the recording so that the judge may expeditiously verify the accuracy of the transcription. The original recording must be retained in the court records. The peace officer making the recording shall secure a copy of the recording and transcription of the recording in the same manner as other evidence is secured.

(4) If the judge approves a warrant over the telephone, the peace officer serving the warrant shall sign the search warrant in the officer's own name and in the judge's name. The peace officer signing the judge's name shall initial the judge's name indicating the signature was authorized by the judge but signed by the officer.

(5) Any search warrant issued by telephone must be signed by the issuing judge or the judge's successor as soon as possible after it has been issued."

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