## HOUSE BILL NO. 524

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR INCORPORATING A CITY OR TOWN; PROVIDING THAT ANY WARD OF A PROPOSED CITY OR TOWN MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST 250 INHABITANTS; REQUIRING THE PROPOSED AREA TO HAVE A POST OFFICE; AND AMENDING SECTION 7-2-4101, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 7-2-4101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"7-2-4101. Petition to organize municipalities** <u>city or town</u>. (1) Whenever the inhabitants of any part of a county desire to be organized into <u>organize as</u> a city or town, they the inhabitants may apply by petition in writing, signed by not less than two-thirds of the registered electors but not more than 300 such electors, who are residents of the state and residing within the limits of the proposed incorporation <u>city or town</u>, to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the territory proposed area is situated.

(2) (a) The petition must describe the limits of the proposed city or town and <del>of the several</del> wards <del>thereof</del> <u>of the proposed city or town</u>, each of which shall <u>A proposed ward must</u> contain 50 or more registered electors and <del>must</del> <u>may</u> not exceed 1 square mile <u>in land area</u>. <del>for each 500</del> <u>A ward must have at least 250</u> inhabitants <del>resident therein</del> <u>residing within the land area of the proposed ward</u>.

(b) The proposed city or town must contain a post office within the proposed area of the city or town.

(b)(c) The petitioners must shall annex attach to the petition a map of the proposed territory area to be incorporated and state the name of the proposed city or town.

(3) The petition and map must be filed in the office of the election administrator."

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