

HOUSE BILL NO. 692  
INTRODUCED BY D. BARRETT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES TO FULLY FUND BILL DRAFTING AND PROVIDING FOR LIMITATIONS ON APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY BILL DRAFTS BY INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND AMENDING SECTION 5-5-216, MCA."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Agencies to fully fund agency bill drafting.** Agencies of the executive branch shall allocate sufficient funding for the expense of writing proposed legislation for introduction in the legislature that ensures that the drafted legislation conforms fully with the standards of the bill drafting manual of the legislation services division. The legislative council shall adopt rules instructing the legislative services division to return to the submitting agency any bill draft that does not comply in all material respects with the requirements of the manual.

**Section 2.** Section 5-5-216, MCA, is amended to read:

**"5-5-216. Recommendations of committees.** (1) An interim committee or a statutory committee making a study designated by the legislative council may make recommendations for legislation. These recommendations and a report, if one is written, must be submitted to the legislature as provided in 5-11-210.

(2) An interim committee may not approve draft legislation, for introduction in a legislative session by a member of the house or senate, that is not in conformity with the overall policies, goals, or objectives of an agency, as provided in law, or, if there is no provision in law, as determined by the committee. An interim committee may also decide not to approve draft legislation for other reasons as determined by the committee."

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, apply to [section 1].

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