



AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES AND REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE; REQUIRING INTERIM COMMITTEES TO REVIEW STATUTORILY ESTABLISHED ADVISORY COUNCILS AND REQUIRED REPORTS OF THEIR ASSIGNED AGENCIES TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RETENTION OR ELIMINATION; REVISING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 5-5-215 AND 5-11-210, MCA.

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

Section 1. Section 5-5-215, MCA, is amended to read:

"5-5-215. Duties of interim committees. (1) Each interim committee shall:

- (a) review administrative rules within its jurisdiction;
- (b) subject to 5-5-217(3), conduct interim studies as assigned;
- (c) monitor the operation of assigned executive branch agencies with specific attention to the following:
 - (i) identification of issues likely to require future legislative attention;
 - (ii) opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems experienced with the application of the law by an agency; and
 - (iii) experiences of the state's citizens with the operation of an agency that may be amenable to improvement through legislative action;
- (d) review statutorily established advisory councils and required reports of assigned agencies to make recommendations to the next legislature on retention or elimination of any advisory council or required reports pursuant to 5-11-210;
- ~~(d)~~(e) review proposed legislation of assigned agencies or entities as provided in the joint legislative rules; and
- ~~(e)~~(f) accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon its assignment and relevant to existing or prospective legislation as it determines, on its own initiative, to be pertinent to the adequate completion of its work.

(2) Each interim committee shall prepare bills and resolutions that, in its opinion, the welfare of the state may require for presentation to the next regular session of the legislature.

(3) The legislative services division shall keep accurate records of the activities and proceedings of each interim committee."

Section 2. Section 5-11-210, MCA, is amended to read:

"5-11-210. Clearinghouse for reports to legislature. (1) For the purposes of this section, "report" means a written report required by law to be given to or filed with the legislature.

(2) On or before September 1 of each year preceding the convening of a regular session of the legislature, an entity required to report to the legislature shall provide, in writing, to the appropriate interim or statutory committee:

(a) the final title of the report;

(b) an abstract or description of the contents of the report, not to exceed 100 words;

(c) if the report is available electronically, its location on the internet; and

~~(e)(d)~~ a recommendation on how many paper copies of the report, if any, should be provided to the legislature;

~~———(d) the reasons why the number of copies recommended is, in the opinion of the reporting entity, the appropriate number of copies; and~~

~~———(e) an estimated cost for each copy of the report.~~

(3) After considering all of the information available about the report, including the number of legislators requesting copies of the report pursuant to subsection (7), the appropriate interim or statutory committee shall, in writing, direct the reporting entity to provide a specific number of paper copies. The number of copies required is at the sole discretion of the appropriate interim or statutory committee. The appropriate interim or statutory committee may require the reporting entity to mail the copies of the report.

(4) The appropriate interim or statutory committee may require that the report be submitted in an electronic format that is usable on the legislature's current computer hardware; or in a microform, such as microfilm or microfiche, or in a CD-ROM format, meaning compact disc read-only memory digital form.

(5) Costs of preparing and distributing a report to the legislature, including writing, printing, postage, distribution, and all other costs, accrue to the reporting agency. Costs incurred in meeting the requirements of

this section may not accrue to the legislative services division.

(6) The executive director of the legislative services division shall cause to be prepared a list of all reports required to be presented to the legislature from the list of titles received under subsection (2).

(7) The executive director shall, as soon as possible following a general election, ~~mail~~ provide to each holdover senator, senator-elect, and representative-elect a list of the titles of the reports, along with the abstracts prepared pursuant to subsection (2)(b), and the location of electronic copies. ~~The list must include a form on which each member or member-elect receiving the list may indicate the report or reports that the member or member-elect would like to receive.~~

(8) The executive director of the legislative services division shall ~~make~~ provide copies of reports requested pursuant to subsection (7) ~~available~~ to those members or members-elect by either requiring that copies be mailed pursuant to subsection (3) or by delivering copies of the reports during the first week of the legislative session.

(9) The executive director of the legislative services division may keep as many copies of a report as are necessary and discard the rest or return them to the agency.

(10) The procedure outlined in this section may also be used for a report required to be made to the legislature under the Multistate Tax Compact contained in 15-1-601, the Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact contained in 61-2-201, the Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement contained in 61-10-1101, or the Western Interstate Nuclear Compact contained in 90-5-201.

(11) Each report to the legislature required under 17-6-230, 19-2-405, 19-2-407, and 19-20-201 must be provided to the legislative services division as soon as the report is published. The legislative services division shall ensure that legislators are notified pursuant to this section of the report's availability. During the interim, the legislative services division shall ensure that members of the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee and the legislative finance committee receive copies of the reports."

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0142, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2011.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2011.

HOUSE BILL NO. 142

INTRODUCED BY D. SANDS

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