

HOUSE BILL NO. 445

INTRODUCED BY S. REICHNER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING BALLOT MEASURE PREPARATION LAWS; REQUIRING
5 THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO FURNISH AN ABBREVIATED FORM OF A CERTIFIED BALLOT TO A
6 COUNTY ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR UPON REQUEST; AND AMENDING SECTION 13-27-501, MCA."

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

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10 **Section 1.** Section 13-27-501, MCA, is amended to read:
11 **"13-27-501. Secretary of state to certify ballot form -- abbreviated ballot.** (1) ~~The~~ Except as provided
12 in subsection (4), the secretary of state shall furnish to the official of each county responsible for preparation of
13 the ballots, at the same time as the election administrator certifies the names of the persons who are candidates
14 for offices to be filled at the election, a certified copy of the form in which each ballot issue to be voted on by the
15 people at that election is to appear on the ballot.

16 (2) The secretary of state shall list for each ballot issue:
17 (a) the number;
18 (b) the method of placement on the ballot;
19 (c) the title;
20 (d) the attorney general's explanatory statement, if applicable;
21 (e) the fiscal statement, if applicable;
22 (f) the statement of purpose and implication;
23 (g) the yes and no statements; and
24 (h) a statement that the ballot issue conflicts with one or more issues, referenced by number, that also
25 appear on the ballot, if applicable.

26 (3) When required to do so, the secretary of state shall use for each ballot issue the title of the legislative
27 act or legislative constitutional proposal or the title provided by the attorney general or district court. Following
28 the number of the ballot issue, the secretary of state, when required to do so, shall include one of the following
29 statements to identify why the issue has been placed on the ballot:

30 (a) an act referred by the legislature;

1 (b) an amendment to the constitution proposed by the legislature;
2 (c) an act of the legislature referred by referendum petition; or
3 (d) a law or constitutional amendment proposed by initiative petition.
4 (4) At least 14 days prior to the deadline for ballot certification by the secretary of state, the county
5 election administrator may request in writing that the county election administrator be furnished an abbreviated
6 form of the certified ballot. The secretary of state shall furnish to all counties from which the secretary of state
7 received a request a certified ballot containing only the information in subsections (2)(a), (2)(e), (2)(f), and (2)(g).
8 If the county election administrator requests that the abbreviated ballot be prepared, copies of the information
9 contained in subsections (2)(a) through (2)(h) must be distributed to each elector by an election judge as the
10 elector enters the polling place."

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable
13 from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part
14 remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

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