1	HOUSE BILL NO. 310
2	INTRODUCED BY D. HAYMAN
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO JUDICIAL ELECTIONS;
5	REQUIRING CERTAIN JUDICIAL CANDIDATES TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE
6	COURT ADMINISTRATOR; AMENDING SECTION 3-1-702, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE
7	EFFECTIVE DATE."
8	
9	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
10	
11	NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Judicial candidate application -- records.** (1) Within 30 days of filing a
12	declaration for nomination, a candidate for the office of district court judge or supreme court justice shall file an
13	application with the office of the court administrator.
14	(2) The office of the court administrator shall:
15	(a) prescribe the application in a form substantially similar to the application developed by the judicial
16	nomination commission for prospective judicial applicants under Title 3, chapter 1, part 10;
17	(b) post applications on the office of the court administrator's website within 10 days of receipt;
18	(c) coordinate with the secretary of state to ensure candidate applications are readily accessible to
19	electors; and
20	(d) maintain candidate applications filed pursuant to this section in accordance with judicial branch
21	retention policies.
22	(3) Applications received regarding a candidate pursuant to this section are public documents.
23	
24	**Section 2.** Section 3-1-702, MCA, is amended to read:
25	**"3-1-702. Duties.** The court administrator is the administrative officer of the court. Under the direction
26	of the supreme court, the court administrator shall:
27	(1) prepare and present judicial budget requests to the legislature, including the costs of the state-funded
28	district court program;
29	(2) collect, compile, and report statistical and other data relating to the business transacted by the courts
30	and provide the information to the legislature on request;

1   (3) to the extent possible, provide that current and future information technology applications are

2   coordinated and compatible with the standards and goals of the executive branch as expressed in the state

3   strategic information technology plan provided for in 2-17-521;

4   (4) recommend to the supreme court improvements in the judiciary;

5   (5) administer legal assistance for indigent victims of domestic violence, as provided in 3-2-714;

6   (6) administer state funding for district courts, as provided in chapter 5, part 9;

7   (7) administer and report on the child abuse and neglect court diversion pilot project provided in

8   41-3-305;

9   (8) administer the pretrial program provided for in 3-1-708;

10   (9) administer the judicial branch personnel plan; ~~and~~

11   (10) maintain records relating to judicial candidates as provided in [section 1]; and

12   ~~(10)~~(11) perform other duties that the supreme court may assign. (Subsection (7) terminates June 30,

13   2019--secs. 5, 7, Ch. 141, L. 2017.)"

14

15   NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

16   integral part of Title 13, chapter 14, part 2, and the provisions of Title 13, chapter 14, part 2, apply to [section 1].

17

18   NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

19   - END -