

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 196
 2 INTRODUCED BY L. HELLEGAARD, M. MALONE, J. SCHILLINGER, S. GIST, S. ESSMANN, . DURAM, L.
 3 SHELDON-GALLOWAY, F. SMITH, T. MOORE, . KNUDSEN, B. MERCER, J. HINKLE, M. BINKLEY, A.
 4 REGIER, K. SEEKINS-CROWE, F. NAVE, R. MARSHALL, B. KEENAN, J. READ, J. BERGSTROM, K.
 5 BOGNER, B. PHALEN, B. BEARD, L. DEMING

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 7 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE COUNTING OF VOTES;
 8 PROVIDING ENFORCEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AMENDING SECTION 13-15-101, MCA; AND
 9 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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 13 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Enforcement by attorney general.** Any deviation from 13-15-101 is
 14 election interference. The attorney general may bring action in the appropriate Montana district court to prevent
 15 or restrain violations of 13-15-101.

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 17 **Section 2.** Section 13-15-101, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"13-15-101. Votes to be publicly counted -- return forms.** (1) Any official vote count must be open
 19 to public observation and continue without adjournment until it is completed, and the result must be publicly
 20 declared on election day without adjournment until completed, except pending unresolved resolution board
 21 ballots, provisional ballots, or military overseas ballots. All documents must be secured, with no person allowed
 22 access before 7 a.m. the day after the election. The resolution and counting areas must be open for public
 23 observation.

24 (2) Immediately after all the ballots are counted by precinct, the election judges shall copy the total
 25 votes cast for each candidate and for and against each proposition on the return forms furnished by the election
 26 administrator.

27 (3) The election judges shall immediately display one of the return forms at the place of counting
 28 and return a copy to the election administrator. Both forms must be signed by all the election judges completing

1 the count."

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3 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
4 integral part of Title 13, chapter 15, part 1, and the provisions of Title 13, chapter 15, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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

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AMENDED