

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1  
 2 INTRODUCED BY C. KNUDSEN  
 3 BY REQUEST OF THE (H) RULES  
 4  
 5 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ADOPTING THE  
 6 HOUSE RULES.

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 9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
 10 MONTANA:

11 That the following House Rules be adopted:

12 **RULES OF THE MONTANA**  
 13 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
 14 **CHAPTER 1**  
 15 **Administration**

16 **H10-10. House officers -- definitions.** (1) House officers include a Speaker, a Speaker pro tempore,  
 17 majority and minority leaders, and majority and minority whips.

18 (2) A majority of representatives voting elects the Speaker and Speaker pro tempore from the House  
 19 membership. A majority of each caucus voting nominates House members to the remaining offices, and those  
 20 nominees are considered to have been elected by a majority vote of the House.

21 (3) (a) "Majority leader" means the leader of the majority party, elected by the caucus.

22 (b) "Majority party" means the party with the most members, subject to subsection (4).

23 (c) "Minority leader" means the leader of the minority party, elected by the caucus.

24 (d) "Minority party" means the party with the second most members, subject to subsection (4).

25 (4) If there are an equal number of members of the two parties with the most members, then the  
 26 majority party is the party of the Speaker and the minority party is the other party with an equal number of  
 27 members.

28 **H10-20. Speaker's duties.** (1) The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House, with authority for

1 vote, move to reconsider the House vote on any matter still within the control of the House.

2 (2) A motion to reconsider is a debatable motion, but the debate is limited to the motion. The debate on  
3 a motion to reconsider is limited to two proponents and two opponents to the motion and the debate may not  
4 address the substance of the matter for which reconsideration is sought. However, an inquiry may be made  
5 concerning the purpose of the motion to reconsider.

6 (3) A motion for reconsideration, unless tabled or replaced by a substitute motion, must be disposed of  
7 when made.

8 (4) When a motion for reconsideration fails, the question is finally settled. A motion for reconsideration  
9 may not be renewed or reconsidered.

10 (5) A motion to recall legislation from the Senate constitutes a motion to reconsider and is subject to the  
11 same rules.

12 (6) A motion for reconsideration is not in order on a vote to postpone to a day certain or to table  
13 legislation.

14 (7) There may be only one reconsideration vote on a specific issue on a legislative day.

15 **H50-180. Renewing procedural motions.** The House may renew a procedural motion if further House  
16 business has intervened.

17 **H50-190. Tabling.** (1) Under Order of Business No. 9, a representative may move to table any  
18 question, motion, or legislation before the House except the question of a quorum or a call of the House. The  
19 motion is nondebatable and may not be amended.

20 (2) When a matter has been tabled, a representative may move to take it from the table under Order of  
21 Business No. 9 on any legislative day.

22 **H50-200. Voting -- conflict of interest -- present by electronic means.** (1) The representatives shall  
23 vote to decide any motion or question properly before the House. Each representative has one vote.

24 (2) The House may, without objection, use a voice vote on procedural motions that are not required to  
25 be recorded in the journal. If a representative rises and objects, the House shall record the vote.

26 (3) The House shall record the vote on all substantive questions. If the voting system is inoperable, the  
27 Chief Clerk shall record the representatives' votes by other means.

28 (4) A member who is present shall vote unless the member has disclosed a conflict of interest to the

1 House.

2 (5) A member may be present for a vote by electronic means, with the permission of the Speaker.

3 **H50-210. Changing a vote -- consent required.** (1) A representative may move to change the  
4 representative's vote within 1 legislative day of the vote. The motion is nondebatable. The motion must be  
5 made on Order of Business No. 9, motions. All of the members present and voting are required to consent to  
6 the change in order for it to be effective.

7 (2) The representative making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the question, and the  
8 original vote tally. A vote may not be changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation.

9 (3) A vote change must be entered into the journal as a notation that the member's vote was changed.  
10 The original printed vote will not be reprinted to reflect the change.

11 (4) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote.

12 **H50-220. Absentee votes -- restrictions.** (1) An excused representative may file an absentee vote  
13 authorization form to vote during the excused absence on any vote for which absentee voting is allowed.

14 (2) An excused representative shall sign an absentee vote authorization form that specifies the motion  
15 and the desired vote.

16 (3) The absentee vote authorization form must be handed in at the rostrum by the party whip or  
17 designated representative before voting on the motion has commenced.

18 (4) The absentee vote authorization may be revoked before the vote by the member who signed the  
19 authorization.

20 (5) Absentee voting is not allowed on third reading or on motions specified as present and voting  
21 pursuant to H50-70.

22 **H50-230. Recess.** The House may stand at ease or recess under any order of business by order of the  
23 Speaker or a majority vote. The recess may be ended at the call of the chair or at a time specified.

24 **H50-240. Adjournment for a legislative day.** (1) A representative may move that the House adjourn  
25 for that legislative day. The motion is nondebatable and may be made under any order of business except  
26 Order of Business No. 7.

27 (2) A motion to adjourn for a legislative day must specify a date and time for the House to convene on  
28 the subsequent legislative day.