

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.

7
8
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 (2) The House may, without objection, use a voice vote on procedural motions that are not required to
2 be recorded in the journal. If a representative rises and objects, the House shall record the vote.

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

5 (4) A member who is present shall vote unless the member has disclosed a conflict of interest to the
6 House.

7 (5) A member may be present for a vote by electronic means, WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE SPEAKER.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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