

Legislative Staff Generated Rules Proposals for the 2025 Session
(03/13/2024)

Proposal #	Potential Rule Change	Existing Rule Impacted	Issue Raised	Proposed Change
1 - Joint Rules	JR 10-70 - Update the language regarding telephone calls and internet access.	JR 10 -70	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>Need to review language for proposed updates.</p> <p>10-70. Telephone calls and internet access. (1) Long-distance telephone calls made by a member on a state telephone while the Legislature is in session or while the member is in travel status are considered official legislative business. These include but are not limited to calls made to constituencies, places of business, and family members. A member's access to the internet through a permissible server is a proper use of the state communication system if the use is for legislative business or is within the scope of permissible use of long-distance telephone calls.</p> <p>(2) Session staff, including aides, may use state telephones for long-distance calls only if specifically authorized to do so by their legislative sponsor or supervisor. Sponsoring members and supervisors are accountable for use of state telephones and internet access by their staff, including aides, and may not authorize others to use state phones or state servers to access the internet.</p>

2 - Joint Rules	JR 10-100 - Update language to reflect what actually is occurring regarding LSD services and certification of payroll.	JR 10-100	Senate & House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>10-100. Legislative Services Division. (1) The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall serve both houses as required.</p> <p>(2) Staff members shall:</p> <p>(a) maintain personnel files for legislative employees; and</p> <p>(b) prepare payrolls for certification and authorization by the presiding officer and prepare a monthly financial report.</p> <p>(3) The Legislative Services Division shall train journal clerks <u>rostrum staff</u> for both houses.</p>
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3-Joint Rules	JR10-130 (8)(b) - Clarify the rule to conform with the Senate rules (S40-30) regarding removal of a cosponsor in the Senate.	JR10-130 (8)(b)	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>10-130. Bills -- sponsorship -- style -- format.</p> <p>(8) (a) Prior <u>Within two days from the date that chief sponsor's signs and accepts legislation from the legislative services division and prior to submitting legislation to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator shall sign the cosponsor form attached to the legislation in order to be added as a cosponsor.</u></p> <p>(b) (i) After <u>Except as provided in subsection (8)(b)(ii), after legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first House or Senate committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.</u></p> <p><u>(ii) A Senate chief sponsor may not remove a cosponsor.</u></p>
4-Joint Rules	JR10-170 - Clarify that the Senate and House Journals are also authenticated by the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House	JR10-170	Senate and House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>10-170. Journals -- authentication -- availability. (1) The journal of the Senate must be authenticated by the signature of the President <u>and the Secretary of the Senate</u> and the journal of the House of Representatives must be authenticated by the signature of the Speaker <u>and the Chief Clerk of the House.</u></p> <p>(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make the completed journals available to the public.</p>

5-Joint Rules	JR40-95 - remove the requirement that amendments must be emailed to members of a standing committee before executive action.	JR40-95	Senate and House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>40-95. Amendment processing. (1) Amendments to bills and resolutions are drafted by Legislative Services Division staff.</p> <p>(2) All amendments must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Services Division for proper format, style, and legal form.</p> <p>(3) Amendments requested and approved by a legislator on a bill that has been assigned to a session standing committee must be emailed to members of the committee prior to executive action on the bill.</p> <p>(4) (3) Amendments requested and approved by a legislator on a bill that is in committee or is scheduled for second reading in the Committee of the Whole must be posted online.</p>
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6-Joint Rules	JR40-150 - change the requirement that copies the engrossed bill be distributed to members electronically to being available electronically.	JR40-150	Senate and House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>40-150. Engrossing. (1) When a bill has been reported favorably by Committee of the Whole of the house in which it originated and the report has been adopted, the bill must be engrossed if the bill is amended. Committee of the Whole amendments must be included in the engrossed bill. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent to printing. The bill must be placed on the calendar for third reading on the legislative day after receipt.</p> <p>(2) Copies of the engrossed bill must be distributed <u>available</u> to members electronically. If also printed, the engrossed bill must be reproduced on blue paper. If a bill is unamended by the Committee of the Whole and contains no clerical errors, it is not required to be reprinted. If printed, only the first sheet must be reproduced on blue paper, with the remainder of the text incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.</p> <p>(3) If a bill is amended by a standing committee in the second house, the amendments must be engrossed and the engrossed bill posted online. If the engrossed bill is also printed, the amendments must be included in a tan-colored bill and distributed in the second house for second reading consideration. If the bill is amended in Committee of the Whole, the amendments must be engrossed and the engrossed bill posted online. If the engrossed bill is also printed, the amendments must be included in a salmon-colored reference bill and distributed in the second house for third reading. If the bill passes on third reading, the reference bill must be posted online and, if printed, copies distributed in the original house. The original house may request from the second house a specified number of copies of the amendments to be printed.</p>
7-Senate Rules	S10-20 - clarify that this rule may not be construed to mean that short-time session staff will be full-time employees during the session.	S10-20	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>S10-20. Term of officers. The term of office for the officers and employees of the Senate established by rule is until the succeeding Legislature is organized. This rule may not be construed to mean the <u>that short-time session staff</u> will be full-time employees during an interim.</p>

8-Senate Rules	S10-50 - clarify presiding officer duties	S10-50	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>S10-50. Presiding officer and duties. (1) The presiding officer of the Senate is the President of the Senate, who must be chosen in accordance with law.</p> <p>(2) The President shall take the chair on every legislative day at the hour to which the Senate adjourned at the last sitting.</p> <p>(3) The President may name a Senator to perform the duties of the President when the President pro tempore is not present in the Senate chamber. The Senator who is named is vested during that time with all the powers of the President.</p> <p>(4) The President has general control over the assignment of rooms for the Senate and shall preserve order and decorum. The President may order the galleries and lobbies cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.</p> <p>(5) The President shall sign or electronically authenticate all necessary certifications of the Senate, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals, <u>and</u> subpoenas, and payrolls. The President's signature or electronic authentication must be attested by the Secretary of the Senate.</p> <p>(6) The President shall approve the calendar for each legislative day.</p> <p>(7) The President is the chief administrative officer of the Senate, with authority for the general supervision of all Senate employees. The President may seek the advice and counsel of the Legislative Administration Committee.</p> <p>(8) The President of the Senate is the authorized approving authority of the Senate during the term of election to that office.</p> <p>(9) The President shall refer bills to committee upon introduction or reception in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.</p>
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<p>9-Senate Rules</p>	<p>S10-80 - delete this rule, The Legislative Administrative Committee has not been involved in the duties listed in this rule.</p>	<p>S10-80 S10-130</p>	<p>Senate Staff identified potential rule change.</p>	<p>S10-80. Legislative Administration Committee duties. (1) The Legislative Administration Committee shall consider matters relating to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.</p> <p>(2) The committee has authority to act in the interim to prepare for future legislative sessions.</p> <p>(3) The committee shall approve contracts for purchase or lease of equipment and supplies for the Senate, subject to the approval of the President.</p> <p>(4) The committee shall consider disputes or complaints involving the competency or decorum of legislative employees referred to it by the President and recommend dismissal, suspension, or retention of employees.</p> <p>(5) The chair of the Legislative Administration Committee may, upon approval of the President, have purchase orders and requisitions prepared and forwarded to the accounting office in the Legislative Services Division.</p> <p>S10-130. Senate employees. (1) In addition to the employees appointed by the President, the Senate shall employ staff recommended by the leadership and the Legislative Administration Committee as necessary to perform the functions of the Senate.</p>
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10-Senate Rules	S10-130(3) - eliminate majority leader appointment of a private secretary.	S10-130(3)	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>S10-130. Senate employees. (1) In addition to the employees appointed by the President, the Senate shall employ staff recommended by the leadership and the Legislative Administration Committee as necessary to perform the functions of the Senate.</p> <p>(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall designate a secretary to take and prepare written minutes of committee meetings for each standing committee. A committee secretary is immediately responsible to the chair, but shall work under the overall direction of the Secretary of the Senate, subject to authority of the committee chair.</p> <p>(3) The President, majority leader, and minority leader may each appoint a private secretary <u>for session</u>.</p>
11-Senate Rules	S10-140 - eliminate duty of the Secretary of the Senate to serve as parliamentary advisor to the Senate. This role is fulfilled by a Senator (usually the majority leader).	S10-140	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>S10-140. Secretary of the Senate and duties. The Secretary of the Senate works under the direction of the President. The responsibilities of the Secretary of the Senate include:</p> <p>(1) performing the duties prescribed by law or other provisions of these rules;</p> <p>(2) serving as parliamentary advisor to the Senate;</p> <p>(3) <u>(2)</u> compiling and maintaining the calendar for approval by the President;</p> <p>(4) <u>(3)</u> keeping the leadership informed on the progress and workload of the Senate;</p> <p>(5) <u>(4)</u> transmitting bills with appropriate messages to the House of Representatives as instructed by action of the Senate;</p> <p>(6) <u>(5)</u> keeping and maintaining records of the Senate; and</p> <p>(7) <u>(6)</u> supervision of the Senate employees, except as otherwise provided.</p>

12-Senate Rules	S10-170- update the Senate Journal rules.	S10-170	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>S10-170. Senate journal. (1) The Senate shall keep and authenticate a journal of its proceedings as required by law and the rules.</p> <p>(2) The Secretary of the Senate will supervise the preparation of the journal by the journal clerks trained by the Legislative Services Division under the direction of the President.</p>
13-Senate Rules	S30-50 -clarify chair duties.	S30-50	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>S30-50. Chair's duties. (1) The chair of a committee is the presiding officer of that committee and is responsible for:</p> <p>(a) maintaining order within the committee room and its environs;</p> <p>(b) scheduling hearings and executive action;</p> <p>(c) supervising committee work, including the appointment of subcommittees to act on a formal or informal basis; and</p> <p>(d) authenticating committee reports by signing them and submitting them promptly to the Secretary of the Senate. The chair shall sign business reports reflecting action taken in each committee meeting that enable the preparation of committee minutes. The minutes must be printed on archival paper; <u>and</u></p> <p>(e) <u>enforce fire code occupancy requirements.</u></p> <p>(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall arrange to have the minutes copied in an electronic format. An electronic copy will be provided to the Legislative Services Division and the State Law Library of Montana. The archival paper copy must be delivered to the Montana Historical Society.</p>

14-Senate Rules	S30-100 - eliminate obsolete language regarding "pairs".	S30-100	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	S30-100. Pairs prohibited -- absentee <u>Absentee</u> or proxy voting. Pairs in standing committee are prohibited. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize Senators to vote in absentia. Authorization for absentee or proxy voting must be reflected in the committee minutes.
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15-Senate Rules	S50-20 - eliminate the reversion to Order of Business #1 for a recess.	S50-20	Senate Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>S50-20. Orders of business. After prayer, roll call, and report on the journal, the order of business of the Senate is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) communications and petitions; (2) reports of standing committees; (3) reports of select committees; (4) messages from the Governor; (5) messages from the House of Representatives; (6) first reading and commitment of bills; (7) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole); (8) third reading of bills; (9) motions; (10) unfinished business; (11) special orders of the day; and (12) announcement of committee meetings. <p>To revert to or pass to a new order of business requires only a majority vote. Unless otherwise specified in the motion to recess, the Senate shall revert to Order of Business No. 1 when reconvening after a recess.</p>
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16- House Rules	H10-20 clarify that the Speaker does not certify the payroll.	H10-20	House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>H10-20. Speaker's duties. (1) The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House, with authority for administration, order, decorum, and the interpretation and enforcement of rules in all House deliberations.</p> <p>(2) The Speaker shall see that all members conduct themselves in a civil manner in accordance with accepted standards of parliamentary conduct. The Speaker may, when necessary, order the Sergeant-at-Arms to clear the aisles and seat the members of the House so that business may be conducted in an orderly manner.</p> <p>(3) Signs, placards, visual displays, or other objects of a similar nature are not permitted in the rooms, lobby, gallery, or on the floor of the House. The Speaker may order the galleries, lobbies, or hallway cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.</p> <p>(4) The Speaker shall sign all necessary certifications by the House, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals, <u>and subpoenas</u>, and <u>payrolls</u>.</p>
17- House Rules	H10-90 - eliminate majority leader appointment of a private secretary.	H10-90	House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>H10-90. Employees. (1) The Speaker shall appoint a Chief Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms and may appoint a Chaplain, subject to confirmation of the House.</p> <p>(2) The Speaker shall employ necessary staff or delegate that function to the employees designated in subsection (1).</p> <p>(3) The secretary for a standing or select committee is generally responsible to the committee chair but shall work under the direction of the Chief Clerk.</p> <p>(4) The Speaker and majority and minority leaders <u>minority leader</u> may each appoint an assistant <u>for session</u>.</p>

18- House Rules	H10-100 - clarify and eliminate certain minute requirements.	H10-100	House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>H10-100. Chief Clerk's duties. The Chief Clerk, under the supervision of the Speaker, is the chief administrative officer of the House and is responsible to:</p> <p>(1) supervise all House employees;</p> <p>(2) have custody of all records and documents of the House;</p> <p>(3) supervise the handling of legislation in the House, the House journal, and other House publications; deliver to the Secretary of State at the close of each session the House journal, bill and resolution records, and all original House bills and joint resolutions; collect minutes and exhibits from all House committees and subcommittees and arrange to have them printed on archival paper and copied in an electronic format within a reasonable time after each meeting. An electronic copy will be provided to the Legislative Services Division and the State Law Library of Montana. The archival paper copy will be delivered to <u>and</u> the Montana Historical Society.</p>
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<p>19- House Rules</p>	<p>H20-20 - eliminate seconded by two representatives on an appeal of a questions of order and privilege.</p>	<p>H20-20</p>	<p>House Staff identified potential rule change.</p>	<p>H20-20. Questions of order and privilege -- appeal -- restrictions -- definitions. (1) The Speaker shall decide all questions of order and privilege and decisions of recognition, subject to an appeal by any representative, seconded by two representatives, to the House for determination by majority vote. The question on appeal is, "Shall the decision of the chairman be sustained?".</p> <p>(2) Responses to parliamentary inquiries may not be appealed.</p> <p>(3) Questions of order and privilege, in order of precedence, are:</p> <p>(a) those affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, and integrity of the House; and</p> <p>(b) those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of individual representatives.</p> <p>(4) A member may not address the House on a question of privilege between the time:</p> <p>(a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion;</p> <p>(b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous question; or</p> <p>(c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion.</p> <p>(5) (a) "Parliamentary inquiry" means a request for information regarding some procedure concerning some questions before the house.</p> <p>(b) "Questions of order and privilege" means those questions as provided for in subsection (3) that enforce the House rules, maintain the order of the House, and protect the integrity, rights, and privileges of the House and its members.</p>
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20 - House Rules	H20-80 - eliminate seconded by two representatives on an appeal of a call of order.	H20-80	House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>H20-80. Violation of rules -- procedure -- appeal. (1) If a member, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or the majority or minority leader may, call the member to order, in which case the member called to order must be seated immediately.</p> <p>(2) The member called to order may move for an appeal to the House and if the motion is seconded by two members, the <u>The</u> matter must be submitted to the House for determination by majority vote. The motion is nondebatable.</p> <p>(3) If the decision of the House is in favor of the member called to order, the member may proceed. If the decision is against the member, the member may not proceed.</p> <p>(4) If a member is called to order, the matter may be referred to the Rules Committee by the minority or majority leader. The Committee may recommend to the House that the member be censured or be subject to other action. Censure consists of an official public reprimand of a member for inappropriate behavior. The House shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.</p>
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<p>21 - House Rules</p>	<p>H30-20 - include enforcement of fire code occupancy requirements in Chairman's duties.</p>	<p>H30-20</p>	<p>House Staff identified potential rule change.</p>	<p>H30-20. Chairman's duties. (1) The principal duties of the chairman of standing or select committees are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) preside over meetings of the committee and to put all questions; (b) except as provided in H30-40(3)(b) and H30-50(3)(b), schedule all bills assigned to committee for a hearing prior to 3 legislative days before the applicable transmittal deadline for the bill as provided in Joint Rule 40-200; (c) maintain order and decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the committee; (d) supervise and direct staff of the committee; (e) have the committee secretary keep the official record of the minutes; (f) sign reports of the committee and submit them promptly to the Chief Clerk; (g) appoint subcommittees to perform on a formal or an informal basis as provided in subsection (2); and (h) inform the Speaker of committee activity; <u>and</u> (i) <u>enforce fire code occupancy requirements.</u> <p>(2) With the exception of the House Appropriations subcommittees, a subcommittee of a standing committee may be appointed by the chairman of the committee. The chairman of the standing committee shall appoint the chairman of the subcommittee.</p>
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22 - House Rules	H30-40 - clarify meeting rule requirements, eliminate address requirement in the minutes	H30-40	House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>H30-40. Meetings -- purpose -- notice -- minutes. (1) All meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times, subject always to the power and authority of the chairman to maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and place of committee meetings must be posted.</p> <p>(2) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:</p> <p>(a) a public hearing at which testimony is to be heard and at which official action may be taken on bills, resolutions, or other matters;</p> <p>(b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters without testimony; or</p> <p>(c) a work session <u>meeting</u> at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.</p> <p>(3) (a) All committees meet at the call of the chairman or upon the request of a majority of the members of the committee.</p> <p>(b) A committee, through motion, may schedule a bill within the possession of the committee for a hearing prior to 3 legislative days before the applicable transmittal deadline for the bill as provided in Joint Rule 40-200.</p> <p>(4) All committees shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to interested persons, of the time, place, and subject matter of regular and special meetings. All committees are encouraged to provide at least 3 legislative days' notice to members of committees and the general public. However, a meeting may be held upon notice appropriate to the circumstances, <u>including meeting transmittal deadlines.</u></p>
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23 - House Rules	H30-40(6) - clarify meeting minutes requirements, eliminate address requirement in the minutes	H30-40(6)	House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>H30-40. Meetings -- purpose -- notice -- minutes. (6) All meetings of committees must be recorded and the minutes must be available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting. The official record <u>of the committee meeting is the audio recording of the meeting and the record</u> must contain at least the following information:</p> <p>(a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;</p> <p>(b) committee members present, excused, or absent;</p> <p>(c) the names and addresses of persons appearing before the committee, whom each represents, and whether the person is a proponent, opponent, or other witness;</p> <p>(d) all motions and their disposition;</p> <p>(e) the results of all votes;</p> <p>(f) references to the recording log, sufficient to serve as an index to the original recording <u>and official record</u>; and</p> <p>(g) testimony and exhibits submitted in writing.</p>
24 - House Rules	H40-30 - clarify the cosponsor rule.	H40-30	House Staff identified potential rule change.	<p>H40-30. Cosponsors. (1) <u>Prior</u> <u>Within two days from the date that chief sponsor's signs and accepts legislation from the legislative services division and prior</u> to submitting legislation to the Chief Clerk for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors. A legislator shall sign the cosponsor form attached to the legislation in order to be added as a cosponsor.</p> <p>(2) After legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first House committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Chief Clerk. This filing must be noted by the Chief Clerk for the record on Order of Business No. 10.</p>

<p>25- Joint Rules</p>	<p>JR 40-200 -Clarify transmittal deadline for Joint Resolutions</p>			<p>40-200. Transmittal deadlines -- two-thirds vote requirement. (1) (a) A bill or amendment transmitted after the deadline established in this subsection (1) may be considered by the receiving house only upon approval of two-thirds of its members present and voting. If the receiving house does not so vote, the bill or amendment must be held pending in the house to which it was transmitted.</p> <p>(b) (i) A bill, except for an appropriation bill, a revenue bill, a bill proposing a referendum, an interim study resolution, or amendments considered by joint committee, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 45th legislative day.</p> <p>(ii) Amendments, except to appropriation bills, committee bills implementing the general appropriations bill, the revenue estimating resolution, interim study resolutions, bills proposing referenda, and revenue bills, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 73rd legislative day.</p> <p>(c) (i) Revenue bills and bills proposing referenda must be transmitted to the other house on or before the 67th legislative day. (ii) Amendments to revenue bills and bills proposing referenda, received from the other house, must be transmitted to the house of origin on or before the 80th legislative day. (iii) A revenue bill is one that either increases or decreases revenue by enacting, eliminating, increasing, or decreasing taxes or fees.</p> <p>(d) (i) Appropriation bills and any bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation bill must be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 67th legislative day. A fund transfer within the state treasury is not an appropriation for purposes of this section. (ii) Senate amendments to appropriation bills must be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 80th legislative day.</p> <p>(2) (a) A joint resolution introduced pursuant to 5-5-227, MCA, for the purpose of estimating revenue available for appropriation by the Legislature must be transmitted to the Senate no later than the 60th legislative day.</p> <p>(b) Amendments to the revenue estimating resolution must be transmitted to the body in which the resolution was introduced no later than the 82nd legislative day.</p>
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<p>26 - House Rules</p>	<p>Rule revision of the House Ethics Committee Process</p>	<p>S30-160, No similar House Rule</p>	<p>Legislative Legal Staff identified potential rule change.</p>	<p>New House Rule:</p> <p>H -XX Ethics Committee. (1) The Ethics Committee shall meet only upon the call of the chair after the referral of an issue from the Rules Committee or the Legislator Conduct Panel or to consider a request for a determination pursuant to subsection (4). The Rules Committee may be convened to consider the referral of a matter to the Ethics Committee upon the request of a Representative. The Rules Committee shall prepare a written statement of the specific question or issue to be addressed by the Ethics Committee. Except for a referral from the Legislative Conduct Panel, the issues referred to the Ethics Committee must be related to the actions of a Representative during a legislative session.</p> <p>(2) The matters that may be referred to the Ethics Committee are:</p> <p>(a) a violation of:</p> <p>(i) 2-2-103;</p> <p>(ii) 2-2-104;</p> <p>(iii) 2-2-111;</p> <p>(iv) 2-2-112; or</p> <p>(v) Joint Rule 10-85:</p> <p>(b) the use or threatened use of a Representative's position for personal or personal business benefit or advantage; or</p> <p>(c) any other violation of law by a Representative while acting in the capacity of Representative.</p> <p>(3) If there is a recommendation from the Ethics Committee, the recommendation is made to the House.</p> <p>(4) A Representative may seek a determination from the Ethics Committee concerning the possibility of a personal conflict of interest.</p> <p>See Ethics Committee statutory provisions below.</p>
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Statutes on the Ethic Committees:

2-2-135. Ethics committees. (1) Each house of the legislature shall establish an ethics committee. Subject to 5-5-234, the committee must consist of two members of the majority party and two members of the minority party. The committees may meet jointly. Each committee shall educate members concerning the provisions of this part concerning legislators and may consider conflicts between public duty and private interest as provided in 2-2-112. The joint committee may consider matters affecting the entire legislature.

(2) Pursuant to Article V, section 10, of the Montana constitution, the legislature is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of this part concerning legislators.

5-2-205. Authority for standing committees to meet during interim. (1) Except as provided in 5-2-202, 5-12-501 through 5-12-504, and subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a standing committee of the legislature, as provided for in legislative rules, may not meet during the interim between regular legislative sessions.

(2) Upon approval of the president of the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, a standing committee may meet before a special session, as provided in 5-3-101, or during a special session.

(3) An ethics committee provided for in 2-2-135 may meet at any time during the session or the interim.

Journal Statutes:

5-11-201. Journals — how authenticated — filing. The journal of the senate must be authenticated by the signature of the president and the journal of the house of representatives by the signature of the speaker. Each authenticated journal must be filed with the secretary of state. A copy of each authenticated journal must be filed with the legislative services division.