ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

HB 47  Providing Requirements for Emergency Rules under MAPA
Provides definition of and requirements for "special notice".

HB 447  Generally Revising Laws Related to Legislative Oversight of Administrative Rules
Requires agencies to send a copy of all proposal notices to the appropriate administrative rule committee when submitting to the Secretary of State. Prohibits agencies from adopting rules between October 1 and December 31 in the year preceding a regular session of the Legislature and provides an exception.

SB 82  Revise MAPA to Allow for a Tie Breaking Process in Interim Committees
Makes the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate Ex Officio members on all administrative rule review committees for the purpose of breaking a tie vote on a question before the committee involving an objection to an administrative rule.

SB 227  Provide for Repeal of Administrative Rules by Joint Resolution
Allows the Legislature, by joint resolution, to repeal a rule or amendment to a rule that was adopted after the adjournment of the most recent regular Legislative Session.

ELECTIONS

BALLOT INITIATIVES

HB 651  Generally Revise Ballot Initiative Laws
Defines "appropriation" for the purposes of ballot initiatives. Requires interim committee to review ballot initiatives within committee's subject area and vote to support or not support placement of initiative on the ballot and requires the committee's vote be printed on the initiative. Requires paid signature gatherers to register with the Secretary of State's Office. Requires Attorney General to review proposed initiatives for regulatory takings and requires Attorney General's ruling be printed on the initiative.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

HB 71  Revise Campaign Finance Reporting Dates for Municipal Elections
Changes reporting deadlines for candidates and political committees participating in municipal elections in odd-numbered years.

HB 221  Allow Campaign Contributions to be used for Candidate Childcare
Allows candidates to expend campaign funds for their childcare expenses while they are actively engaged in campaign activity. Includes reporting requirements and an exception for in-kind childcare.

HB 689  Generally Revise Campaign Finance and Campaign Practice Laws
Requires political committees who lease space from the state or the University System and have more than $5,000 in expenditures to file a report with Legislative Services. Requires the reports be distributed to the SAVA committee and Education Interim Committee (if leasing MUS facility).
SB 130  Revise Laws Related to Campaign Finance Complaints
Allows someone accused of a campaign finance violation to provide a written response. Requires the Commissioner of Political Practices to post the response to the Commissioner's website.

SB 224  Generally Revise Campaign Finance Laws
Allows candidates to use same account for primary and general elections with the requirement they maintain records distinguishing the two. Provides that a person who hosts a fundraising event on their personal property is not making a campaign contribution. Raises individual and political committee contribution limits for all public offices. Changes reporting deadlines. Raises limits for disclosure for individual contributions. Prohibits Commissioner of Political Practices from requesting additional information on the source of funds. Adjusts the 2-business-day reporting requirements. Eliminates requirement to report on contributions from a political party committee in the form of personal services and campaign materials. Revises incidental committee filing requirements. Changes reporting requirements for purpose of individual expenses.

SB 226  Generally Revising Laws Related to Candidate Campaign Finance Loans
Revises laws related to loans made by a candidate to the candidate's campaign.

SB 319  Generally Revise Campaign Finance Laws
Creates joint fundraising committees. Changes some reporting requirements. Establishes student organizations that are required to register as political committees are funded through additional optional student fees, the fees must be opt-in. Prohibits certain political activities in certain places operated by the Montana University System. Includes reporting requirements.

SB 339  Solely Correcting an Erroneous Campaign Finance Statutory Reference
Corrects an erroneous campaign finance statutory reference in Section 13-37-226, MCA.

ELECTION SECURITY

HB 530  Require Secretary of State to Adopt Rules Governing Election Security
Requires the Secretary of State to adopt rules defining and governing election security. Requires annual compliance assessments and reporting at the state and county levels. Directs Secretary of State to adopt an administrative rule preventing individuals from receiving a pecuniary benefit in exchange for assisting with ballot distribution or collection.

LOBBYING

SB 1  Revise Lobbying Laws to Update Terminology and Conform Lobbying Definition
Changes terminology from "public official" to "legislator" and clarifies definitions of "lobbying" and "lobbyist".

SB 21  Revise Deposit of Lobbying Fee and Repeal Broadcasting Special Account
Requires lobbying fees and associated revenue be deposited into the state general fund and eliminates the state government broadcasting account.

POLLING PLACES

SB 196  Generally Revise Polling Place Hours Laws
Allows polling places serving fewer than 400 registered electors may open later than 7 a.m., but no later than noon, and requires written notification of the change to impacted voters. If the precinct is partially or completely within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, operation hours may not be changed without consulting the governing body of the reservation.
POLLS WATCHERS

SB 93  Revise Provisions Related to Poll Watchers
Allows poll watchers from each political party at mail ballot election deposit locations during the days and
times the deposit location is open.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

SB 385  Revise Special District Laws and Provide Time Limit on Property Tax Levies
Revises provisions related to special districts, including the assessment rate, the details to include in the
referendum, and a dissolution date for the district. Increases the required percentage of voters needed for a petition to institute the creation of a special district.

VOTER REGISTRATION

HB 176  Close Late Voter Registration at Noon the Day Before the Election
Closes late voter registration at noon the day before the election instead of 5 p.m.

SB 169  Generally Revise Voter ID Laws
Changes allowable main and alternate forms of identification that may be presented when registering to vote.
Changes allowable identification for provisional voting, both in-person and by mail, and process for verifying identification after election day.

SB 170  Require Annual Voter Registration List Maintenance
Increases frequency of maintenance of voter register list from odd-numbered years to annually.

OTHER ELECTION-RELATED LEGISLATION

HB 325  Elect Supreme Court Justices by Districts
Establishes seven Supreme Court judicial districts, provides guidance for selection of the Chief Justice. Not applicable to Justices elected or appointed prior to the effective date of the act. Requires the act to appear on the November 2022 for vote by qualified electors of Montana.

HB 429  Revise Governor's Power to Suspend Election Laws During Emergency
Limits the Governor's ability to unilaterally revise election laws during a period of emergency. Allows the Governor to request the Secretary of State to poll the members of the legislature on changes to elections during a period of emergency. Requires consent of the Legislature through the poll to make changes to elections during a period of emergency.

HB 506  Generally Revise Election Laws
Establishes priorities for development of Congressional districts. Establishes procedure for prospective electors who are not eligible at the time of voter registration. Repeals 13-17-105, MCA, experimental use of voting systems.

SB 15  Revise Election Laws Related to Accessibility for Disabled Electors
Defines "disability" in relation to elections. Provides eligibility for agents for disabled voters. Adds the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal laws to the Secretary of State's advice and training to elections officials. Adds guidance related to election costs. Changes terminology from "accessible voting technology" to "voter interface device availability". Requires voter interface devices be available for disabled voters during mail ballot elections and establishes exceptions. Allows election judges to take ballot to disabled elector if they are not able to access the polling location with a provision for maintaining secrecy of the individual's vote. Provides provisions for assistance to disabled electors. Adds requirement for plan for providing voter interface devices to required written plan from election administrators.
SB 113  Limiting Referendums to 100 Words, Exclusive of Statute Sections
Requires all bills referred by the Legislature to the people for a vote must have a title of 100 words or less with an exception for section numbers of statutes being repealed or amended.

SB 350  Generally Revise Election Laws Related to Minor Parties
Allows any elector to present a petition to the Secretary of State to request that a political party may hold a primary election even if they don't qualify under statute and provides requirements and processes.

SB 351  Revise Ballot Tabulation Dates for Counties
Allows election administrators to test all central count vote tabulation machines before automatic tabulation begins. Requires Secretary of State to adopt rule to include the change.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

HB 22  Allow in-kind services for easement on state land used for military facilities
Allows acceptance of in-kind services or materials in exchange for utilities easements on state lands used for armories or other military facilities.

HB 68  Provide Early School Enrollment for Children of Relocated Military Families
Allows children of military families required to relocate to Montana to enroll in classes before establishing residency.

HB 270  Revise Laws Related to Military Spouse Drivers Licenses
Removes requirement that spouses of military personnel get a Montana driver's license within 90 days of becoming employed in Montana.

HB 362  Clarify Credit for Military Leave During Employment
Clarifies language requiring military leave be credited in full after six months of employment.

HB 438  Revise Commercial Driver License Laws to Include Military Waiver
Clarifies waiver from driving exams for commercial vehicles for current and former military service members. Includes eligibility criteria for waiver.

HB 549  Revise State Suicide Reduction Plans to Include Specific Military-Related Data
Requires the inclusion of information specific to veterans, active duty, reserve, and guard members of the uniformed services in the state suicide reduction plans.

HB 590  Clarify Military Access to Federal Leave of Absence
Clarifies that members of the military on voluntary or involuntary duty are entitled to a leave of absence pursuant to the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. Provides court remedies for employer violations.

MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD

HB 29  Adopt Most Recent Federal Military Codes and Regulations
Adopts the most recent federal military laws, regulations, and codes applicable to the governance of the Montana National Guard.

HB 31  Clarify Terminology on Military Titles and Command Authority
Clarifies the titles, roles, and authority of the Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutants Generals of the Montana National Guard.
SB 243  Create Presumption of Domicile for Students who join Montana National Guard
Creates presumption that a member of the Montana National Guard is domiciled in Montana for the purposes of qualifying for in-state tuition for post-secondary education.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

HB 178  Revise Grant Dispersal Procedures for County Veterans' Service Offices
Requires the Board of Veterans' Affairs to distribute funds as block grants to qualifying county or multicounty veterans' services offices. Includes updated grant application process.

HB 357  Revise Property Tax Assistance Program Inflation Adjustment Laws
Revises the inflationary adjustment for income used to determine eligibility for property tax assistance programs for disabled veterans.

HB 491  Revise Access to Military Discharge Records
Requires the Montana Veterans' Affairs Division to release military discharge documentation dated 62 years or more prior to the request date and qualifies as a public document under U.S.C. 552a. Changes terminology from "certificate" to "document".

HB 667  Revise Tobacco Tax Allocation for State Veterans' Nursing Homes
Increases the amount of the tobacco tax allocation for the operation and maintenance of the state veterans' nursing homes.

HJ 21  Urge Designation of State Funeral for Last WWII Medal of Honor Recipient
Joint resolution of the Montana House and Senate urging President Biden to designate a state funeral for the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

SJ 19  Resolution to Honor 75th Anniversary of Ending of WWII
Joint resolution of the Montana Senate and House recognizing the Montana World War II generation, veterans, families, and all who supported the US during the War. Recognizes the year 2020 as the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Declares 2021 a special recognition of the sacrifices of Montanans in World War II.

PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION PLANS

HB 72  Revise Funding for Highway Patrol Retirement System HPORS
Revises special revenue account contributions to the Montana Highway Patrol Retirement System.

HB 81  Generally Revise Laws on Administration of MPERA Retirement Systems
Revises provisions related to alternate payee rights under family law orders, required benefit distributions under federal law, and military service purchase eligibility. Clarifies guaranteed annual benefit adjustment timeline and amount. Clarifies provisions governing long-term disability benefit payments under the PERS defined contribution plan.

HB 88  Generally Revise Laws on Administration of TRS
Clarifies the definition of "earned compensation" and reporting requirements for employers. Revises mandatory distribution provisions. Corrects the referenced period for reporting compensation earned by a disabled member.
HJ 8  Provide for a Study of Pension Laws
Joint resolution of the House and Senate requesting an interim study of Montana's Public Employee Retirement Systems and recommendations for a long-term funding model.

SB 175  Generally Revise Contributions to the Judges' Retirement System
Temporarily suspends employer contributions to the Judges' Retirement System and reduces the employer contribution amount. Provides a contingency for the reduction in the event the funded ratio of the plan drops below a certain amount.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

HB 76  Revise Montana VEBA Provisions
Adds definitions for "dependent" and "participant". Allows VEBA members to receive tax-free employer contributions of unused sick and vacation leave. Revises death benefits.

ADDITIONAL STATE ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION

HB 58  Extend Bond Validation Act
Extends the application of Bond Validating Act.

HB 95  Revise Ethics Laws Related to Confidentiality
Removes confidentiality provisions related to ethics complaints concerning public employees and unelected public officers.

HB 159  Revise Governor's Power to Spend Certain Unanticipated Federal Funds
Gives the Legislature authority to approve the Governor's power over large unanticipated funds, items, and services received for the purposes of emergency or disaster services. Outlines a procedure for the Secretary of State to poll members of the Legislature when they are not in session.

HB 497  Establish Interim Budget Committees
Establishes interim budget committees of the Legislature, provides details for membership and leadership positions, and outlines duties of the committees.

SB 36  Code Commissioner Bill
Revises, clarifies, and amends several sections of the Montana Code Annotated. Corrects erroneous references contained in materials enacted by the 67th Legislature and previous legislatures.

SB 232  Revise Laws Related to Highway Patrol Compensation
Requires that the salary survey used to establish the base salary for highway patrol officers include certain city police departments.

SB 254  Revising Daylight Savings Time
Establishes year-round Mountain Daylight Savings Time and exempts all areas of the state from Mountain Standard Time.

SB 272  Generally Revise Montana Information Technology Act
Changes the makeup of the Information Technology Board. Provides exemptions for the Secretary of State's office and the Department of Justice.
SB 276  Eliminate Secretary of State's Microfilm Requirements
Removes requirement that the Secretary of State approve microfilm projects and equipment purchases. Eliminates the authority for the Secretary of State to operate a central microfilm unit.

SB 287  Generally Revise Public Project Financing Laws
Referred to as the "State Building Construction Loan Act of 2021". Includes numerous changes to the laws governing financing public projects and revises the process for awarding public financing contracts.

SB 309  Revising State Lottery Laws Relating to Compensation of Lottery Employees
Exempts the Lottery Director from certain state employee pay provisions and removes salary provisions for the Lottery Director and Assistant Lottery Director.

SJ 17  Resolution on Daylight Savings Time
Joint resolution of the Senate and House to urge the U.S. Congress to allows Montana to enact year-round Daylight Savings Time.