

BILL DRAFT REQUESTS

2022 INFORMATION GUIDE

Legislators & committees of the Legislature may officially request the drafting of bills. Legislative Services Division staff draft all bills to ensure they comply with bill drafting requirements.

WHO MAY REQUEST

Legislators may request drafts subject to the following:

- Holdover senators (those not required to run for re-election) may request bill drafts at any time; bill drafting begins in earnest the September preceding a session. [List of holdover senators and unopposed legislators](#). After candidate-filing for the Legislature closes or after the primary election, legislators may begin to request bill drafts if they are running unopposed.
- After the general election, all legislators, including holdover senators, unopposed legislators, and newly elected legislators, may request an unlimited number of bills or resolutions to be drafted before 5 p.m. on December 5 preceding a regular session.
- After 5 p.m. on December 5, legislators may request no more than 7 bill drafts, at least 5 of which must be requested before the session convenes.
- After December 5, legislators may grant unused bill draft requests to other legislators.

*These restrictions do not apply to bills proposed by the Code Commissioner in the Legislative Services Division, bills or resolutions requested by standing committees, or bills or resolutions requested on behalf of newly elected state officials.

CERTAIN TYPES OF BILLS HAVE DEADLINES OF LEGISLATIVE DAY BY 5PM

| | | | |
|---|----|---------------------------|----|
| General bills & resolutions | 12 | Revenue bills | 17 |
| Committee bills & resolutions | 36 | Committee revenue bills | 62 |
| Committee bills implementing provisions of a general appropriations act | 75 | Interim study resolutions | 75 |

HOW TO REQUEST

Legislators should fill out a "[Bill Drafting Request](#)" form (also available from the Legislative Services Division). Each bill draft request is assigned to a staff attorney or research analyst based on experience and workload. The first five requests legislators submit are drafted for legislators before a drafter may work on a legislator's sixth request ([prioritizing bill requests](#)). The drafter is an impartial technician whose function is to translate a legislator's objectives and policy ideas into clear, concise, and unambiguous language. Submit forms to:

MAIL:

Montana Legislative Services Division
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

EMAIL:

teverts@mt.gov

FAX:

(406) 444-3036

WEB:

[Bill Drafting Process for Legislators](#)

PHONE:

(406) 444-3064