

RULES OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

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Joint Rules (White Section)

CHAPTER 10 — Administration	
10-10. Time of meeting	2
10-20. Legislative day — duration	2
10-30. Schedules	2
10-40. Adjournment — recess — meeting place	2
10-50. Access of media — registration — decorum — sanctions	2
10-60. Conflict of interest	2
10-70. Telephone calls and internet access	2
10-80. Joint employees	2
10-85. Harassment prohibited — reporting	2
10-100. Legislative Services Division	3
10-120. Engrossing and enrolling staff — duties	3
10-130. Bills — sponsorship — style — format	4
10-140. Voting on bills — constitutional amendments	4
10-150. Recording and publication of voting	4
10-160. Journal	5
10-170. Journals — authentication — availability	5
CHAPTER 20 — Relations with Other House	
20-10. Consent for adjournment or recess	6
CHAPTER 30 — Committees	
30-10. Joint committee chair — exception	7
30-20. Voting in joint committees — exception	7
30-30. Conference committees — subject matter restrictions	7
30-40. Conference committee — enrolling	7
30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills	7
30-60. Estimation of revenue	7
30-70. Appointment of interim committees	8
CHAPTER 40 — Legislation	
40-10. Amendment to state constitution	10
40-20. Appropriation bills — introduction in House — feed bill	10
40-30. Effective dates	10
40-40. Bill requests and introduction — limits and procedures — drafting priority — agency and committee bills	10
40-50. Schedules for drafting requests and bill introduction	11
40-60. Joint resolutions	12
40-65. Appropriation required for bills requesting interim studies	12
40-70. Bills with same purpose — vetoes	12
40-80. Reproduction of full statute required	13
40-90. Bills — original purpose	13
40-100. Fiscal notes	13
40-110. Sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal	14
40-120. Substitute bills	14
40-130. Reading of bills	14
40-140. Second reading — bill reproduction	14
40-150. Engrossing	15
40-160. Enrolling	15
40-170. Amendment by second house	15
40-180. Final action on a bill	16
40-190. Transmittal of bills between houses — referral — hearing	16
40-200. Transmittal deadlines — two-thirds vote requirement	16
40-210. Governor's veto	17
40-220. Response to Governor's veto	17
40-230. Governor's recommendations for amendment — procedure	17
CHAPTER 60 — Rules	
60-10. Suspension of joint rule — change in rules	18
60-20. Reference to Mason's Manual	18
60-30. Publication and distribution of joint rules	18
60-40. Tenure of joint rules	18

**Senate Rules
(Pink Section)**

CHAPTER 1 — Administration	
S10-10. Officers of the Senate	20
S10-20. Term of office	20
S10-30. President, President pro tempore, and other officers	20
S10-40. Voting by presiding officer	20
S10-50. Presiding officer and duties	20
S10-60. Succession	20
S10-70. President-elect	21
S10-80. Legislative Administration Committee duties	21
S10-90. Majority Leader	21
S10-100. Majority Whip	21
S10-110. Minority Leader	21
S10-120. Minority Whip	21
S10-130. Senate employees	22
S10-140. Secretary of the Senate and duties	22
S10-150. Sergeant-at-Arms duties	22
S10-160. Legislative aides	22
S10-170. Senate journal	22
CHAPTER 2 — Decorum	
S20-10. Questions of order — appeal	24
S20-20. Violation of rules — call to order — appeal	24
S20-30. Questions of privilege — restrictions	24
S20-40. Recognition by chair	24
S20-50. Floor privileges	24
S20-60. Communications to Senate	24
S20-70. Distribution of materials on floor — exception	25
CHAPTER 3 — Committees	
S30-10. Committee appointments	26
S30-20. Standing committees — classification	26
S30-40. Ex officio members — quorum	27
S30-50. Chair's duties	27
S30-60. Meetings — notice — purpose — minutes	27
S30-70. Procedures — member privileges	28
S30-80. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions	29
S30-100. Pairs prohibited — absentee or proxy voting	29
S30-140. Reconsideration in committee	29
S30-150. Committee requested legislation	30
S30-160. Ethics Committee	30
CHAPTER 4 — Legislation	
S40-10. Types of legislation	31
S40-20. Introduction — first reading	31
S40-30. Additional sponsors	31
S40-40. Reading limitations	31
S40-60. Scheduling for second reading	31
CHAPTER 5 — Floor Action	
S50-10. Attendance — mandatory voting — quorum	33
S50-20. Orders of business	33
S50-30. Limitations on debate	33
S50-40. Procedure upon offering a motion	33
S50-50. Precedence of motions	33
S50-60. Nondebatable motions	34
S50-70. Amending motions — restrictions	34
S50-80. Previous question	34
S50-90. Reconsideration — time restrictions	35
S50-100. Dividing a question — segregation excluded	35
S50-110. Rules for questions or bills requiring other than a majority vote	35
S50-120. Committee reports to Senate — reconsideration	35
S50-130. Conference committee — reports	36
S50-140. Second reading — Committee of the Whole report — segregation — rejection	36
S50-150. Committee of the Whole amendments	36
S50-160. Motions in Committee of the Whole	36
S50-170. Committee of the Whole — generally	37
S50-180. Voting on second reading — positive disposition of motions	37
S50-190. Third reading procedure	37
S50-200. Senate voting — changing a vote — objection	37
S50-210. Pairs	37
S50-220. Call of the Senate	37
S50-230. House amendments to Senate legislation	38

S50-240. Governor's amendments	38
S50-250. Governor's veto.	38
CHAPTER 6 — Rules	
S60-10. Senate rules — amendment — adoption — suspension	39
S60-20. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure	39
CHAPTER 7 — Nominations from the Governor	
S70-10. Nominations	40
S70-20. Receiving nominations — requesting bill drafts	40
S70-30. Committee process — preliminary reports — separate consideration	40
Appendix A	42

House Rules (Green Section)

CHAPTER 1 — Administration	
H10-10. House officers — definitions	44
H10-20. Speaker's duties	44
H10-30. Speaker-elect	44
H10-40. Speaker pro tempore duties	44
H10-50. Majority Leader	44
H10-60. Majority Whip	45
H10-70. Minority Leader	45
H10-80. Minority Whip	45
H10-90. Employees	45
H10-100. Chief Clerk's duties	45
H10-110. Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms	45
H10-120. Legislative aides	46
H10-140. House journal	46
H10-150. Votes recorded and public	47
H10-160. Duration of legislative day	47
CHAPTER 2 — Decorum	
H20-10. Addressing the House — recognition	48
H20-20. Questions of order and privilege — appeal — restrictions	48
H20-30. Limits on lobbying	48
H20-40. Admittance to the House floor	48
H20-50. Dilatory motions or questions — appeal	48
H20-60. Lobbying by employees — sanctions	48
H20-70. Papers distributed on desks — exception	48
H20-80. Violation of rules — procedure — appeal	48
CHAPTER 3 — Committees	
H30-10. House standing committees — appointments — classification	50
H30-20. Chairman's duties	51
H30-30. Quorum — officers as members	51
H30-40. Meetings — purpose — notice — minutes	51
H30-50. Procedures — absentee or proxy voting — member privileges	52
H30-60. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions	53
CHAPTER 4 — Legislation	
H40-10. Introduction deadlines	54
H40-20. House resolutions	54
H40-30. Cosponsors	54
H40-40. Introduction — receipt — messages from Senate and elected officials	54
H40-50. First reading — receipt of Senate legislation	54
H40-60. One reading per day — exception	54
H40-70. Referral	54
H40-80. Rereferral — normal progression	55
H40-90. Legislation withdrawn from committee	55
H40-100. Standing committee reports — requirement for rejection of adverse committee report	55
H40-110. Consent calendar procedure	55
H40-120. Legislation requiring other than a majority vote	56
H40-130. Amending House second and third reading agendas — vote requirements	56
H40-140. Second reading — timing — obverse vote on failed motion — status of amendments — rejection of report — segregation	56
H40-150. Amendments in the Committee of the Whole — timing — official records	56
H40-160. Motions in the Committee of the Whole — quorum required	57
H40-170. Limits on debate in the Committee of the Whole	57
H40-180. Special provisions for debate on the general appropriations bill — sections — amendments	58
H40-190. Engrossing	58
H40-200. Third reading	58
H40-210. Senate legislation in the House	58
H40-220. Senate amendments to House legislation	58

H40-230. Conference committee reports	58
H40-240. Enrolling	59
H40-250. Governor's amendments	59
H40-260. Governor's veto	59
CHAPTER 5 — Floor Actions	
H50-10. Attendance — excuse — call of the House	60
H50-20. Quorum	60
H50-30. Call of the House without a quorum	60
H50-50. Leave with cause during call of the House	60
H50-60. Opening and order of business	60
H50-70. Motions	61
H50-80. Limits on debate of debatable motions	61
H50-90. Nondebatable motions	61
H50-100. Questions	61
H50-110. Amending motions — limitations	61
H50-120. Substitute motions	61
H50-130. Withdrawing motions	62
H50-140. Dividing a question	62
H50-150. Previous question — close	62
H50-160. Questions requiring other than a majority vote	62
H50-170. Reconsideration — time restriction	63
H50-180. Renewing procedural motions	63
H50-190. Tabling	63
H50-200. Voting — conflict of interest — present by electronic means	64
H50-210. Changing a vote — consent required	64
H50-220. Absentee votes — restrictions	64
H50-230. Recess	64
H50-240. Adjournment for a legislative day	64
H50-250. Adjournment sine die	64
CHAPTER 6 — Motions	
H60-10. Proposal for consideration	65
H60-20. Nondebatable motions	65
H60-30. Motions allowed during debate	65
H60-40. Motions to adjourn or recess	65
H60-50. Motion to table	66
H60-60. Motion to postpone	66
H60-70. Motion to refer	66
H60-80. Terms of debate on motion to refer or rerefer	66
H60-100. Moving the previous question after a motion to table	66
H60-110. Standard motions	66
CHAPTER 7 — Rules	
H70-10. House rules — amendment — report timing	67
H70-20. Tenure of rules	67
H70-30. Suspension of rules	67
H70-40. Supplementary rules	67
H70-50. Interpreting rules — appeal	67
H70-60. Joint rules superseded	67
Appendix	68
Index to Rules	70

JOINT RULES



CHAPTER 10

Administration

10-10. Time of meeting. Each house may order its time of meeting.

10-20. Legislative day — duration. (1) If either house is in session on a given day, that day constitutes a legislative day.

(2) A legislative day for a house ends either 24 hours after that house convenes for the day or at the time the house convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier.

10-30. Schedules. The presiding officer of each house shall coordinate its schedule to accommodate the workload of the other house.

10-40. Adjournment — recess — meeting place. A house may not, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than 3 days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(5)). The procedure for obtaining consent is contained in Joint Rule 20-10.

10-50. Access of media — registration — decorum — sanctions. (1) Subject to the presiding officer's discretion on issues of decorum and order, a registered media representative may not be prohibited from photographing, televising, or recording a legislative meeting or hearing.

(2) The presiding officer shall authorize the issuance of cards to media representatives to allow floor access, and media representatives holding the cards are subject to placement on the floor by the presiding officer. The presiding officer may delegate enforcement of this rule to the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House, the respective Sergeant-at-Arms, or the Legislative Information Officer. The privilege may be revoked or suspended for a violation of decorum and order as agreed to by the media representative upon application for registration.

(3) Registered media representatives may be subject to seating in designated areas. Overflow access will be in the gallery.

10-60. Conflict of interest. A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the Legislature shall disclose the fact to the house to which the member belongs. (section 2-2-112, MCA)

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.

(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.

(3) Permanent staff of the Legislature shall comply with executive branch rules applying to the use of state telephones.

(4) For purposes of this section, "state telephone" or "state phone" means a landline telephone or other telephone provided by the state.

10-80. Joint employees. The presiding officers of each house, acting together, shall:

(1) hire joint employees; and

(2) review a dispute or complaint involving the competency or decorum of a joint employee, and dismiss, suspend, or retain the employee.

10-85. Harassment prohibited — reporting. (1) Legislators and legislative employees have the right to work free of harassment on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or



religious ideas when performing services in furtherance of legislative responsibilities, whether the offender is an employer, employee, legislator, lobbyist, or member of the public.

(2) A violation of this policy must be reported to the party leader in the appropriate house if the offended party is a legislator or to the presiding officer if the offended party is the party leader. The presiding officer may refer the matter to the rules committee of the applicable house, and the offender is subject to discipline or censure, as appropriate.

(3) If the offended party is an employee of the house of representatives or the senate, the violation must be reported to the employee's supervisor or, if the offender is the supervisor for the house of representatives or the senate, the report should be made to the chief clerk of the house of representatives or to the secretary of the senate, as appropriate. If the offended party is a permanent legislative employee, the report should be made to the employee's supervisor or, if the offender is the supervisor, to the appropriate division director. If the offender is a division director, the report should be made to the presiding officer of the appropriate statutory committee.

(4) If the offended party is a supervisor for the house of representatives or the senate, the violation must be reported to the chief clerk of the house of representatives or to the secretary of the senate, as appropriate. If the offended party is a supervisor of permanent legislative employees, the violation must be reported to the appropriate division director. If the offender is a division director, the report should be made to the presiding officer of the appropriate statutory committee.

(5) The chief clerk or the secretary shall report the violation to the presiding officer. The presiding officer may refer the matter to the rules committee. If the offender is an employee or supervisor, the employee or supervisor is subject to discipline or discharge.

10-100. Legislative Services Division. (1) The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall serve both houses as required.

(2) Staff members shall:

- (a) maintain personnel files for legislative employees; and
- (b) prepare payrolls for certification and signature by the presiding officer and prepare a monthly financial report.

(3) The Legislative Services Division shall train journal clerks for both houses.

10-120. Engrossing and enrolling staff — duties. (1) The Legislative Services Division shall provide all engrossing and enrolling staff.

(2) The duties of the engrossing and enrolling staff are:

(a) to engross or enroll any bill or resolution delivered to them within 48 hours after it has been received, unless further time is granted in writing by the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated; and

(b) to correct clerical errors, absent the objection of the sponsor of a bill, resolution, or amendment and the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives in any bill or amendment originating in the house by which the Clerk or Secretary is employed. The following kinds of clerical errors may be corrected:

- (i) errors in spelling;
- (ii) errors in numbering sections;
- (iii) additions or deletions of underlining or lines through matter to be stricken;
- (iv) material copied incorrectly from the Montana Code Annotated;
- (v) errors in outlining or in internal references;
- (vi) an error in a title caused by an amendment;
- (vii) an error in a catchline caused by an amendment;
- (viii) errors in references to the Montana Code Annotated; and



(ix) other nonconformities of an amendment with Bill Drafting Manual form.

(3) The engrossing and enrolling staff shall give notice in writing of the clerical correction to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, who shall give notice to the sponsor of the bill or amendment. The form must be filed in the office of the amendments coordinator. A party receiving notice may register an objection to the correction by filing the objection in writing with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House by the end of the next legislative day following receipt of the notice. The Senate or House shall vote on whether or not to uphold the objection. If the objection is upheld, the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division, and the engrossing staff shall change the bill to remove the correction or corrections to which the objection was made.

(4) For the purposes of this rule, “engrossing” means placing amendments in a bill.

10-130. Bills — sponsorship — style — format. (1) A bill must be sponsored by a member of the Legislature.

(2) A bill must be:

- (a) printed on paper with numbered lines;
- (b) numbered at the foot of each page (except page 1);
- (c) backed with a page of substantial material that includes spaces for notations for tracking the progress of the bill; and
- (d) introduced. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

(3) In a section amending an existing statute, matter to be stricken out must be indicated with a line through the words or part to be deleted, and new matter must be underlined.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a bill must be stated in the title.

(b) (i) Sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a legislative referendum must be stated in the title unless the inclusion of those sections in the title would cause the title to cumulatively exceed the 100-word limit pursuant to section 5-4-102, MCA.

(ii) If the inclusion of sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a legislative referendum title would cause the title to cumulatively exceed 100 words, the title must include those sections that do not exceed the 100-word limit and include a reference to the total number of additional sections listed in the body of the bill that are excluded from the title due to the 100-word limit. Those additional sections excluded from the title must be listed in a section within the body of the bill after the enacting clause.

(5) Introduced bills must be reproduced on white paper and distributed to members.

10-140. Voting on bills — constitutional amendments. (1) A bill may not become a law except by vote of the constitutionally required majority of all the members present and voting in each house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)). On final passage, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names of those voting entered on the journal (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)).

(2) Any vote in one house on a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote.

(3) This rule does not prevent a committee from tabling a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana.

10-150. Recording and publication of voting. (1) Every vote of each member on each substantive question in the Legislature, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made available to the public. On final passage of any bill or joint resolution, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.



(2) (a) Roll call votes must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal on adopting an adverse committee report and on those motions made in Committee of the Whole to:

- (i) amend;
- (ii) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (iii) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence; or
- (iv) indefinitely postpone.

(b) The text of all proposed amendments in Committee of the Whole must be recorded.

(3) A roll call vote must be taken on nonsubstantive questions on the request of two members who may, on any vote, request that the ayes and noes be spread upon the journal.

(4) Roll call votes and other votes that are to be made public but are not specifically required to be spread upon the journal must be entered in the minutes of the appropriate committee or of the appropriate house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)). A copy of the minutes must be filed with the Montana Historical Society. If electronically recorded minutes are kept for a committee, a written log conforming to section 2-3-212(2), MCA, must also be kept.

10-160. Journal. Each house shall:

- (1) supply the Legislative Services Division with the contents of the daily journal to be stored on an automated system;
- (2) examine its journal and order correction of any errors; and
- (3) make a daily journal available to all members.

10-170. Journals — authentication — availability. (1) The journal of the Senate must be authenticated by the signature of the President and the journal of the House of Representatives must be authenticated by the signature of the Speaker.

(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make the completed journals available to the public (sections 5-11-201 through 5-11-203, MCA).



CHAPTER 20**Relations With Other House**

20-10. Consent for adjournment or recess. As required by Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, the consent of the other house is required for adjournment or recess for more than 3 calendar days. Consent for adjournment is obtained by having the house wishing to adjourn send a message to the other house and having the receiving house vote favorably on the request. The receiving house shall inform the requesting house of its consent or lack of consent. Consent is not required on or after the 87th legislative day.



CHAPTER 30

Committees

30-10. Joint committee chair — exception. Except as provided in Joint Rule 30-50 concerning the joint meetings of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the chair of the Senate committee is the chair of all joint committees.

30-20. Voting in joint committees — exception. (1) Except for Rules Committees and conference committees, a member of a joint committee votes individually and not by the house to which the committee member belongs.

(2) Because the Rules Committees and conference committees are joint meetings of separate committees, in those committees the committees from each house vote separately. A majority of each committee shall agree before any action may be taken, unless otherwise specified by individual house rules.

30-30. Conference committees — subject matter restrictions. (1) If either house requests a conference committee and appoints a committee for the purpose of discussing an amendment on which the two houses cannot agree, the other house shall appoint a committee for the same purpose. The time and place of all conference committee meetings must be agreed upon by their chairs and announced from the rostrum. This announcement is in order at any time. Failure to make this announcement does not affect the validity of the legislation being considered. A conference committee meeting must be conducted as an open meeting, and minutes of the meeting must be kept.

(2) A conference committee, having conferred, shall report to the respective houses the result of its conference. A conference committee shall confine itself to consideration of the disputed amendment. The committee may recommend:

- (a) acceptance or rejection of each disputed amendment in its entirety; or
- (b) further amendment of the disputed amendment.

(3) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs, appointments must be made in the same manner as provided in subsection (1). A free conference committee may discuss and propose amendments to a bill in its entirety and is not confined to a particular amendment. However, a free conference committee is limited to consideration of amendments that are within the scope of the title of the introduced bill.

30-40. Conference committee — enrolling. A conference committee report must give clerical instructions for a corrected reference bill and for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills. (1) All general appropriation bills must first be considered by a joint subcommittee composed of designated members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, and then by each committee separately.

(2) Joint meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Claims Committee must be held upon call of the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who is chair of the joint committee.

(3) The committee chair of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee or of the House Appropriations Committee may be a voting member in the joint subcommittees if:

- (a) either house has fewer members on the joint subcommittees;
- (b) the chair represents the house with fewer members on the subcommittees; and
- (c) the chair is present for the vote at the time that a question is called. A vote may not be held open to facilitate voting by a chair.

30-60. Estimation of revenue. The Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee shall introduce a House joint resolution for the purpose of estimating revenue that may be available for appropriation by the Legislature. (5-5-227, MCA)



30-70. Appointment of interim committees. As provided for in section 5-5-211(6), MCA, 50% of interim committees must be selected from the following legislative standing committees:

- (1) Economic Affairs Interim Committee:
 - (a) Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee;
 - (b) Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee;
 - (c) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (d) House Agriculture Committee;
 - (e) House Business and Labor Committee;
 - (f) House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee; and
 - (g) House Appropriations Committee;
- (2) Education and Local Government Interim Committee:
 - (a) Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee;
 - (b) Senate Local Government Committee;
 - (c) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (d) House Education Committee;
 - (e) House Local Government Committee; and
 - (f) House Appropriations Committee;
- (3) Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee:
 - (a) Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee;
 - (b) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (c) House Human Services Committee; and
 - (d) House Appropriations Committee;
- (4) Law and Justice Interim Committee:
 - (a) Senate Judiciary Committee;
 - (b) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (c) House Judiciary Committee; and
 - (d) House Appropriations Committee;
- (5) Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee:
 - (a) Senate Taxation Committee;
 - (b) Senate Highways and Transportation Committee;
 - (c) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (d) House Taxation Committee;
 - (e) House Transportation Committee; and
 - (f) House Appropriations Committee;
- (6) State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee:
 - (a) Senate State Administration Committee;
 - (b) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;
 - (c) House State Administration Committee; and



- (d) House Appropriations Committee;
- (7) Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee:
 - (a) Senate Energy Committee;
 - (b) House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee;
 - (c) House Appropriations Committee; and
 - (d) Senate Finance and Claims Committee.



CHAPTER 40

Legislation

40-10. Amendment to state constitution. A bill must be used to propose an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana. The bill is not subject to the veto of the Governor (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10(1)).

40-20. Appropriation bills — introduction in House — feed bill. (1) All appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

(2) Appropriation bills for the operation of the Legislature must be introduced by the chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

40-30. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), a statute takes effect on October 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(2) A law appropriating public funds for a public purpose takes effect on July 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(3) A statute providing for the taxation or imposition of a fee on motor vehicles takes effect on the first day of January following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(4) A joint resolution takes effect on its passage unless a different time is prescribed in the joint resolution (sections 1-2-201 and 1-2-202, MCA).

40-40. Bill requests and introduction — limits and procedures — drafting priority — agency and committee bills. (1) Prior to a regular session, a person entitled to serve in that session, referred to as a “member”, or a legislative committee is entitled to request bill drafting services from the Legislative Services Division. Deadlines for requesting certain types of bills during a legislative session are contained in Joint Rule 40-50.

(a) Prior to 5 p.m. on December 5 preceding a regular session of the Legislature, a member may request an unlimited number of bills and resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division for introduction in the regular session.

(b) After 5 p.m. on December 5, a member may request no more than seven bills or resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division. At least five of the seven bills or resolutions must be requested before the regular session convenes.

(c) After December 5, a member, in the member’s discretion, may grant to any other member any of the remaining bill or resolution requests the granting member has not used. A bill requested by an individual may not be transferred to another legislator but may be introduced by another legislator. The requestor must pick up the bill and sign a receipt indicating delivery of the bill and may either introduce the bill or give the bill to another legislator for introduction.

(d) These limitations on bill and resolution requests do not apply to:

(i) Code Commissioner bills;

(ii) a bill or resolution requested by a standing committee; and

(iii) a bill or resolution requested by a member at the request of a newly elected state official if so designated.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) or this subsection, the staff of the Legislative Services Division shall work on bill draft requests in the order received. After a member has requested the drafting of five bills, the sixth bill request and all subsequent bill requests of that member must receive a lower drafting priority than all other bills of members not in excess of five per member. The Speaker of the House, the minority leader of the House, the President of the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate may each direct the staff of the Legislative Services Division to assign a higher priority to 20 draft requests. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall assign a higher priority to any bill draft request when jointly directed by the President of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leader of the House.



(b) Except for bill draft requests described in subsection (1)(d)(iii), if a draft bill has not been received by the Legislative Services Division by November 15 for a bill by request of an agency or entity, the draft loses its priority under this rule.

(3) Bills and resolutions must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Services Division prior to introduction for proper format, style, and legal form. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall store bills on the automated bill drafting equipment and shall print and deliver them to the requesting members. The original bill back must be signed to indicate review by the Legislative Services Division. A bill may not be introduced unless it is so signed.

(4) (a) During a session, a bill may be introduced by endorsing it with the name of a member and presenting it to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate. Bills or joint resolutions may be sponsored jointly by Senate and House members. A jointly sponsored bill must be introduced in the house in which the member whose name appears first on the bill is a member. The chief joint sponsor's name must appear immediately to the right of the first sponsor's name, and the chief sponsor may not be changed. Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), in each session of the Legislature, bills, joint resolutions, and simple resolutions must be numbered consecutively in separate series in the order of their receipt.

(b) The first 15 House bills may be reserved for preintroduced bills.

(5) (a) Any bill requested by an interim or statutory legislative committee or on behalf of an administrative or executive agency or department through an interim or statutory committee must be so indicated by placing after the names of the sponsors the phrase "By Request of the..... (Name of committee or agency)". The phrase may not be added to an introduced bill by amendment. The phrase may not be placed on a bill unless requested by a statutory or interim committee prior to the convening of the session. Unless requested by an individual member, a bill draft request submitted at the request of an agency must be submitted to, reviewed by, and requested by the appropriate interim or statutory committee. Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), an agency or committee bill request must be preintroduced or the request is canceled. Preintroduction of an agency, committee, or individual legislator's bill must occur no later than 5 p.m. on December 15th prior to the convening of a regular legislative session. Preintroduction is accomplished when the Legislative Services Division receives a signed preintroduction form.

(b) The preintroduction requirement does not apply to an office held by an elected official during the official's first year in that office or to bills requested by a joint select or joint special committee appointed prior to the convening of the legislative session to address a specific issue. Bills requested under this subsection (5)(b) may include the phrase "By Request of.....(Name of official or committee)".

(6) Bills may be preintroduced, numbered, and reproduced prior to a legislative session by the staff of the Legislative Services Division. Actual signatures of persons entitled to serve as members in the ensuing session may be obtained on a consent form from the Legislative Services Division and the sponsor's name printed on the bill. Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill. These names will be forwarded to the Legislative Services Division to be included on the face of the bill following standing committee approval.

40-50. Schedules for drafting requests and bill introduction. (1) The following schedule must be followed for submission of drafting requests.

	Request Deadline 5:00 P.M. Legislative Day
• General Bills and Resolutions	12
• Revenue Bills	17
• Committee Bills and Resolutions	36
• Committee Revenue Bills and Bills Proposing Referenda	62
• Committee Bills implementing provisions of a general appropriation act	67



• Interim study resolutions	60
• Appropriation Bills	45
• Resolutions to express confirmation of appointments	No Deadline
• Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules	No Deadline

(2) (a) A bill or resolution must be introduced at least 6 legislative days prior to the applicable transmittal deadline as provided in Joint Rule 40-200 except for:

- (i) a session committee bill or resolution;
- (ii) a bill repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules;
- (iii) a joint resolution advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules; or
- (iv) a resolution expressing confirmation.

(b) Bills and resolutions must be introduced within 2 legislative days after delivery. Failure to comply with the introduction deadline results in the bill draft being canceled.

40-60. Joint resolutions. (1) A joint resolution must be adopted by both houses and is not approved by the Governor. It may be used to:

- (a) express desire, opinion, sympathy, or request of the Legislature;
- (b) recognize relations with other governments, sister states, political subdivisions, or similar governmental entities;
- (c) request, but not require, a legislative entity to conduct an interim study;
- (d) adopt, amend, or repeal the joint rules;
- (e) approve construction of a state building under section 18-2-102 or 20-25-302, MCA;
- (f) deal with disasters and emergencies under Title 10, specifically as provided in sections 10-3-302(3), 10-3-303(3), 10-3-303(4), and 10-3-505(5), MCA;
- (g) submit a negotiated settlement under section 39-31-305(3), MCA;
- (h) declare or terminate an energy emergency under section 90-4-310, MCA;
- (i) ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution;
- (j) advise or request the repeal, amendment, or adoption of a rule in the Administrative Rules of Montana; or
- (k) approve the organization of a new community college district under section 20-15-209, MCA.

(2) A joint resolution may not be used for purposes of congratulating or recognizing an individual or group achievement. Recognition of individual or group achievements is handled on special orders of the day.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in these rules or The Constitution of the State of Montana, a joint resolution is treated in all respects as a bill.

(4) A copy of every joint resolution must be transmitted after adoption to the Secretary of State by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

40-65. Appropriation required for bills requesting interim studies. A bill including a request for an interim study may not be transmitted to the Governor unless the bill contains an appropriation sufficient to conduct the study. A fiscal note may be requested for a bill requesting an interim study if the appropriation does not appear to be sufficient.

40-70. Bills with same purpose — vetoes. (1) A bill may not be introduced or received in a house after that house, during that session, has finally rejected a bill designed to accomplish the same purpose,



except with the approval of the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(2) Failure to override a veto does not constitute final rejection.

40-80. Reproduction of full statute required. A statute may not be amended or its provisions extended by reference to its title only, but the statute section that is amended or extended must be reproduced or published at length.

40-90. Bills — original purpose. A law may not be passed except by bill. A bill may not be so altered or amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)).

40-100. Fiscal notes. (1) As provided in Title 5, chapter 4, part 2, MCA, all bills reported out of a committee of the Legislature, including interim committees, having a potential effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state, local governments, or public schools, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, must include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of the fiscal effect. The Legislative Services Division staff shall indicate at the top of each bill prepared for introduction that a fiscal note may be necessary under this rule. Fiscal notes must be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who, at the time of introduction or after adoption of substantive amendments to an introduced bill, shall determine the need for the note, based on the Legislative Services Division staff recommendation.

(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make available an electronic copy of any bill for which it has been determined a fiscal note may be necessary to the Budget Director immediately after the bill has been prepared for introduction and delivered to the requesting member. The Budget Director may proceed with the preparation of a fiscal note in anticipation of a subsequent formal request. A bill with financial implications for a local government or school district must comply with subsection (4).

(3) The Budget Director, in cooperation with the governmental entity or entities affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note. Except as provided in subsection (4), the Budget Director shall return the fiscal note within 6 days unless further time is granted by the presiding officer or committee making the request, based upon a written statement from the Budget Director that additional time is necessary to properly prepare the note.

(4) (a) A bill that may require a local government or school district to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that requires the direct expenditure of additional funds without a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility in violation of section 1-2-112 or 1-2-113, MCA, must be accompanied, at the time that the bill is presented for introduction, by an estimate of all direct and indirect fiscal impacts on the local government or school district. The estimate of the fiscal impacts must be prepared by the Budget Director in cooperation with a local government or school district affected by the bill.

(b) The Budget Director has 10 days to prepare the estimate. Upon completion of the estimate, the Budget Director shall submit it to the presiding officer and the chief sponsor of the bill.

(5) A completed fiscal note must be submitted by the Budget Director to the presiding officer who requested it. The presiding officer shall notify the bill's chief sponsor of the completed fiscal note and request the chief sponsor's signature. The chief sponsor has 1 legislative day after delivery to review the fiscal note and to discuss the findings with the Budget Director, if necessary. After the legislative day has elapsed, all fiscal notes must be reproduced and placed on the members' desks, either with or without the chief sponsor's signature.

(6) A fiscal note must, if possible, show in dollar amounts:

- (a) the estimated increase or decrease in revenues or expenditures;
- (b) costs that may be absorbed without additional funds; and
- (c) long-range financial implications.

(7) The fiscal note may not include any comment or opinion relative to merits of the bill. However, technical or mechanical defects in the bill may be noted.



(8) A fiscal note also may be requested, with the approval of the presiding officer, on a bill and on an amended bill by:

- (a) a committee considering the bill;
- (b) a majority of the members of the house in which the bill is to be considered, at the time of second reading; or
- (c) the chief sponsor.

(9) The Budget Director shall prepare and deliver an amended fiscal note on an amended bill within 3 days of the request by the presiding officer; otherwise the bill may proceed without the updated fiscal note.

(10) The Budget Director shall make available on request to any member of the Legislature all background information used in developing a fiscal note.

(11) If a bill requires a fiscal note, the bill may not be reported from a committee for second reading unless the bill is accompanied by the fiscal note.

40-110. Sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal. (1) If a sponsor elects to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal pursuant to section 5-4-204, MCA, the sponsor shall make the election as provided and return the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form to the presiding officer within 4 days of the election. The form must identify the bill number, the sponsor of the bill, the date prepared, the version of the fiscal note being rebutted, the reasons the sponsor disagrees with the fiscal note, the items or assumptions in the fiscal note that the sponsor believes are incorrect, and the sponsor's estimate of the fiscal impact, if an estimate is available.

(2) The presiding officer may grant additional time to the sponsor for preparation of the sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal.

(3) Upon receipt of the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form, the presiding officer shall refer it to the committee hearing the bill. If the bill is printed, the form must be identified as a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, reproduced, and placed on the members' desks.

(4) The Legislative Services Division shall provide forms for preparation of sponsors' fiscal note rebuttals and shall print the completed sponsors' fiscal note rebuttal forms on a different color paper than the fiscal notes prepared by the Budget Director.

40-120. Substitute bills. (1) A committee may recommend that every clause in a bill be changed and that entirely new material be substituted so long as the new material is relevant to the title and subject of the original bill. The substitute bill is considered an amendment and not a new bill.

(2) The proper form of reporting a substitute bill by a committee is to propose amendments to strike out all of the material following the enacting clause, to substitute the new material, and to recommend any necessary changes in the title of the bill.

(3) If a committee report is adopted that recommends a substitute for a bill originating in the other house, the substitute bill must be printed and reproduced.

40-130. Reading of bills. Prior to passage, a bill, other than a bill requested by a joint select or joint special committee as provided in 40-40(5)(b), must be read three times in the house in which it is under consideration. It may be read either by title or by summary of title. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

40-140. Second reading — bill reproduction. (1) If the majority of a house adopts a recommendation for the passage of a bill originating in that house after the bill has been returned from a committee with amendments, the bill must be reproduced on yellow paper with all amendments incorporated into the copies.

(2) If a bill has been returned from a committee without amendments, only the first sheet must be reproduced on yellow paper, and the remainder of the text may be incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(3) A bill requested by and heard by a joint select or joint special committee, as provided in 40-40(5)(b), may be referred directly to second reading. If the bill is passed by the house of origin, the bill must be



transmitted to the other house, and if the bill was not amended, it may be placed on second reading without the need for referral to a committee.

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.

(2) Copies of the engrossed bill to be distributed to members are 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. 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.

(3) If a bill is amended by a standing committee in the second house, 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 included in a salmon-colored reference bill and distributed in the second house for third reading. If the bill passes on third reading, copies of the reference bill must be 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.

40-160. Enrolling. (1) When a bill has passed both houses, it must be enrolled. An original and two duplicate printed copies of the bill must be enrolled, free from all errors, with a margin of two inches at the top and one inch on each side. In sections amending existing statutes, new matter must be underlined and deleted matter must be shown as stricken.

(2) When the enrolling is completed, the bill must be examined by the sponsor.

(3) The correctly enrolled bill must be delivered to the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated. The presiding officer shall sign the original and two copies of each bill not later than the next legislative day after it has been reported correctly enrolled, unless the bill is delivered on the last legislative day, in which case the presiding officer shall sign it that day. The fact of signing must be announced by the presiding officer and entered upon the journal no later than the next legislative day. At any time after the report of a bill correctly enrolled and before the signing, if a member signifies a desire to examine the bill, the member must be permitted to do so. The bill then must be transmitted to the other house where the same procedure must be followed.

(4) A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature by the 90th day may be:

(a) enrolled;

(b) clerically corrected by the presiding officers, if necessary;

(c) signed by the presiding officers; and

(d) delivered to the Governor or, in the case of a bill proposing a referendum, to the Secretary of State, not later than 5 working days after the 90th legislative day.

(5) All journal entries authorized under this rule must be entered on the journal for the 90th day.

(6) The original and two copies signed by the presiding officer of each house must be presented to the Governor or the Secretary of State, as applicable, in return for a receipt. A report then must be made to the house of the day of the presentation, which must be entered on the journal.

(7) The original must be filed with the Secretary of State. Signed copies with chapter numbers assigned pursuant to section 5-11-204, MCA, must be filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Legislative Services Division.

40-170. Amendment by second house. (1) Amendments to a bill by the second house may not be further amended by the house in which the bill originated, but must be either accepted or rejected. A bill amended by the second house when the effect of the combined amendments is to return the bill to the form that the bill passed the house in which the bill originated is not considered to have been amended and need not be returned to the house of origin for acceptance or rejection of the amendments. If the amendments are rejected, a conference committee may be requested by the house in which the bill



originated. If the amendments are accepted and the bill is of a type requiring more than a majority vote for passage, the bill again must be placed on third reading in the house of origin.

(2) The vote on third reading after concurrence in amendments is the vote of the house of origin that must be used to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

40-180. Final action on a bill. (1) When a bill being heard by the second house has received its third reading or has been rejected, the second house shall transmit it as soon as possible to the original house with notice of the second house's action.

(2) A bill that reduces revenue and that contains a contingent voidness provision may not be transmitted to the Governor unless there is an identified corresponding reduction in an appropriation contained in the general appropriations act.

40-190. Transmittal of bills between houses — referral — hearing. (1) Each house shall transmit to the other with any bill all relevant papers.

(2) When a House bill is transmitted to the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall give a dated receipt for the bill to the Chief Clerk of the House. When a Senate bill is transmitted to the House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House shall give a dated receipt to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Transmitted bills must be referred to committee and scheduled for hearing.

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.

(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.

(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.

(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, fees, or fines.

(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.

(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.

(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.

(3) Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules may be transmitted at any time during a session.

(4) Interim study resolutions must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 85th legislative day.



40-210. Governor's veto. (1) Except as provided in 40-65 and 40-180, each bill passed by the Legislature must be submitted to the Governor for the Governor's signature. This does not apply to:

- (a) bills proposing amendments to The Constitution of the State of Montana;
- (b) bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States Constitution;
- (c) resolutions; and
- (d) referendum measures of the Legislature.

(2) If the Governor does not sign or veto the bill within 10 days after its delivery, the bill becomes law.

(3) The Governor shall return a vetoed bill to the Legislature with a statement of reasons for the veto.

(4) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it becomes law.

(5) If the Legislature is not in session when the Governor vetoes a bill, the Governor shall return the bill with reasons for the veto to the Legislature as provided by law. The Legislature may be polled on a bill that it approved by two-thirds of the members present or it may be reconvened to reconsider any bill so vetoed (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(6) The Governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in these instances the procedure must be the same as upon veto of an entire bill (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

40-220. Response to Governor's veto. (1) When the presiding officer receives a veto message, the presiding officer shall read it to the members over the rostrum. After the reading, a member may move that the Governor's veto be overridden.

(2) A vote on the motion is determined by roll call. If two-thirds of the members present vote "aye", the veto is overridden. If two-thirds of the members present do not vote "aye", the veto is sustained.

40-230. Governor's recommendations for amendment — procedure. (1) The Governor may return any bill to the Legislature with recommendations for amendment. The Governor's recommendations for amendment must be considered first by the house in which the bill originated.

(2) If the Legislature passes the bill in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, it shall return the bill to the Governor for reconsideration. The Governor may not return a bill to the Legislature a second time for amendment.

(3) If the Governor returns a bill to the originating house with recommendations for amendment, the house shall reconsider the bill under its rules relating to amendments offered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) The bill then is subject to the following procedures:

(a) The originating house shall transmit to the second house, for consideration under its rules relating to amendments in Committee of the Whole, the bill and the originating house's approval or disapproval of the Governor's recommendations.

(b) If both houses approve the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(c) If both houses disapprove the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(d) If one house disapproves the Governor's recommendations and the other house approves, then either house may request a conference committee, which may be a free conference committee.

(i) If both houses adopt a conference committee report, the bill in accordance with the report must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(ii) If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the Governor's recommendations must be considered not approved and the bill must be returned to the Governor for further consideration.



CHAPTER 60**Rules**

60-10. Suspension of joint rule — change in rules. (1) A joint rule may be repealed or amended only with the concurrence of both houses, under the procedures adopted by each house for the repeal or amendment of its own rules.

(2) A joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills may be temporarily suspended by the consent of two-thirds of the members of either house, insofar as it applies to the house suspending it.

(3) Any Rules Committee report recommending a change in the joint rules must be referred to the other house. Any new rule or any change in the rules of either house must be transmitted to the other house for informational purposes.

(4) Upon adoption of any change, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide the office of the Legislative Services Division:

- (a) one copy of all motions or resolutions amending Senate, House, or joint rules; and
- (b) copies of all minutes and reports of the Rules Committees.

60-20. Reference to Mason's Manual. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2010) governs the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives in all cases not covered by these rules.

60-30. Publication and distribution of joint rules. (1) The Legislative Services Division shall codify and publish in one volume:

- (a) the rules of the Senate;
- (b) the rules of the House of Representatives; and
- (c) the joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) After the rules have been published, the Legislative Services Division shall distribute copies as directed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

60-40. Tenure of joint rules. The joint rules remain in effect until removed by a joint resolution or until a new Legislature is elected and takes office.



SENATE RULES



CHAPTER 1

Administration

S10-10. Officers of the Senate. The officers of the Senate are the officers listed and elected in accordance with Title 5, chapter 2, part 2, MCA.

S10-20. Term of office. The term of office for the officers and employees of the Senate established by law is until the succeeding Legislature is organized. This rule may not be construed to mean the staff will be full-time employees during an interim.

S10-30. President, President pro tempore, and other officers. (1) The Senate shall, at the beginning of each regular session, and at other times as may be necessary, elect a Senator as President and a Senator as President pro tempore.

(2) The Senate shall choose its other officers and is the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of the Senators.

S10-40. Voting by presiding officer. Any Senator, when acting as presiding officer of the Senate, shall vote as any other Senator.

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.

(2) The President shall take the chair on every legislative day at the hour to which the Senate adjourned at the last sitting.

(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.

(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.

(5) The President shall sign all necessary certifications of the Senate, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals, subpoenas, and payrolls. The President's signature must be attested by the Secretary of the Senate.

(6) The President shall approve the calendar for each legislative day.

(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.

(8) The President of the Senate is the authorized approving authority of the Senate during the term of election to that office.

(9) The President shall refer bills to committee upon introduction or reception in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

S10-60. Succession. (1) In case of the absence or disqualification of the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall perform the duties of the President until the vacancy is filled or the disability removed.

(2) Whenever the President pro tempore of the Senate is of the opposite political party from that of the President, the following procedure applies:

(a) If the President dies while in office, the members of the Senate have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the same party.

(b) If the President is absent for 2 or more legislative days or at any time after the 85th legislative day or at any time during special session of the Legislature and wants to appoint an acting President during the President's absence, the President may do so, or the members of the Senate have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the President's caucus.



(c) An acting President of the Senate has the powers of the President and supersedes the powers of the President pro tempore.

S10-70. President-elect. The President-elect nominated by the appropriate party caucus held in accordance with section 5-2-201, MCA, has the responsibility and authority to assume the duties of President of the Senate.

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.

(2) The committee has authority to act in the interim to prepare for future legislative sessions.

(3) The committee shall approve contracts for purchase or lease of equipment and supplies for the Senate, subject to the approval of the President.

(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.

(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.

S10-90. Majority Leader. The primary functions of the majority leader usually relate to floor duties. The duties of the majority leader may include but are not limited to:

- (1) being the lead speaker for the majority party during floor debates;
- (2) helping the President develop the calendar;
- (3) assisting the President with program development, policy formation, and policy decisions;
- (4) presiding over the majority caucus meetings; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-100. Majority Whip. The duties of the majority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the majority leader;
- (2) ensuring member attendance;
- (3) counting votes;
- (4) generally communicating the majority position; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-110. Minority Leader. The minority leader is the principal leader of the minority caucus. The duties of the minority leader may include but are not limited to:

- (1) developing the minority position;
- (2) negotiating with the majority party;
- (3) directing minority caucus activities on the chamber floor;
- (4) leading debate for the minority; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-120. Minority Whip. The major responsibilities for the minority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the minority leader on the floor;
- (2) counting votes;
- (3) ensuring attendance of minority party members; and



(4) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-130. Senate employees. (1) In addition to the employees appointed by the President in accordance with section 5-2-221, MCA, the Senate shall employ staff recommended by the leadership and the Legislative Administration Committee as necessary to perform the functions of the Senate.

(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.

(3) The President, majority leader, and minority leader may each appoint a private secretary.

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:

- (1) performing the duties prescribed by law or other provisions of these rules;
- (2) serving as parliamentary advisor to the Senate;
- (3) compiling and maintaining the calendar for approval by the President;
- (4) keeping the leadership informed on the progress and workload of the Senate;
- (5) transmitting bills with appropriate messages to the House of Representatives as instructed by action of the Senate;
- (6) keeping and maintaining records of the Senate; and
- (7) supervision of the Senate employees, except as otherwise provided.

S10-150. Sergeant-at-Arms duties. Under the direction of the President, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- (1) maintain order as directed by the President or chair of the Committee of the Whole;
- (2) enforce the lobbying rules of the Senate;
- (3) supervise the employees assigned to the Sergeant's office;
- (4) receive, distribute, and maintain supplies, equipment, and other inventory of the Senate, along with records of purchase and disposal in accordance with law;
- (5) perform duties as required by other rules and the Senate.

S10-160. Legislative aides. Each Senator may designate one person of legal age to serve as an aide during the session. Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the Rules Committee. The Senator shall register an aide with the Secretary of the Senate and arrange for the purchase of a name tag with the Sergeant-at-Arms.

S10-170. Senate journal. (1) The Senate shall keep and authenticate a journal of its proceedings as required by law and the rules.

(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.

(3) In addition to the proceedings required by law to be recorded, the journal must include:

- (a) committee reports;
- (b) every motion, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;
- (c) the introduction of legislation in the Senate;
- (d) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;
- (e) roll call votes;
- (f) messages from the Governor and the House of Representatives;
- (g) every amendment, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;



(h) the names of Senators and their votes on any question upon a request by two Senators before a vote is taken; and

(i) any other records the Senate directs by rule or action.

(4) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide information that may be necessary for the preparation of the daily journal for printing by the Legislative Services Division. Upon approval by the President, the daily journal must be reproduced and made available.

(5) Any Senator may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. Without objection by the Senate, the President may direct the correction to be made.

(6) The President shall authenticate the original daily journal, from time to time, and the Secretary of the Senate shall, as appropriate, deliver it to the Legislative Services Division to be prepared for publication and distribution in accordance with law.



CHAPTER 2

Decorum

S20-10. Questions of order — appeal. The President of the Senate shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any Senator seconded by two other Senators. A Senator may not speak more than once on an appeal without the consent of a majority of the Senate.

S20-20. Violation of rules — call to order — appeal. (1) If a Senator, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the Senate, the President shall, or the majority leader or minority floor leader may, call the Senator to order, in which case the Senator called to order must be seated immediately.

(2) The Senator called to order may move for an appeal to the Senate, and if the motion is seconded by two Senators, the matter must be submitted to the Senate for determination by majority vote. The motion is nondebatable.

(3) If the decision of the Senate is in favor of the Senator called to order, the Senator may proceed. If the decision is against the Senator, the Senator may not proceed.

(4) If a Senator 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 Senate that the Senator be censured or be subject to other action. Censure consists of an official public reprimand of a Senator for inappropriate behavior. The Senate shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.

S20-30. Questions of privilege — restrictions. (1) Questions of privilege in order of precedence are those:

(a) affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, or integrity of the proceedings of the Senate; and

(b) affecting the rights, reputation, or conduct of individual Senators in their capacity as Senators.

(2) A Senator may not address the Senate on a question of privilege between the time:

(a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion;

(b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous question; or

(c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion.

S20-40. Recognition by chair. A Senator desiring to speak shall rise and address the presiding officer and, once being recognized, shall speak standing in place. The presiding officer may grant permission for a speaker to speak from elsewhere in the chamber. When two or more Senators rise at the same time, the presiding officer shall name the order of the speakers.

S20-50. Floor privileges. (1) When the Senate is in session no person is permitted in the chambers except:

(a) legislators;

(b) legislative officers and employees whose presence is necessary for the conduct of business of the session;

(c) registered representatives of the media; and

(d) former legislators (not currently registered as lobbyists).

(2) The President may make exceptions for visiting dignitaries.

(3) Beginning 1 hour before and ending one-half hour after adjournment, no person is permitted in the chambers except those authorized as exceptions under subsection (1) or (2).

S20-60. Communications to Senate. A communication to the Senate must be addressed to the President and must bear the name of the person submitting it. The President shall decide if the communication bears including in the calendar.



S20-70. Distribution of materials on floor — exception. (1) Subject to subsection (2), material may not be distributed on the Senators' desks in the chamber unless the material bears the signature of the bearer and a Senator and has been approved by the President.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to material written by staff at the request of a Senator and placed on the Senator's desk.



CHAPTER 3

Committees

S30-10. Committee appointments. (1) There is a Committee on Committees consisting of six members. If the Senate is evenly divided between parties, the committee shall consist of six Senators, three from the majority party and three from the minority party.

(2) The Committee on Committees shall, with the approval of the Senate, appoint the members of Senate standing committees, select committees, and joint committees. Prior to making committee assignments, the Committee on Committees shall take into consideration the recommendations of the minority leader for minority committee assignments.

(3) The minority leader shall designate the ranking minority member for each standing committee.

(4) The President of the Senate shall appoint all conference committees and special committees, with the advice of the majority leader and minority leader.

(5) The Senate may change the membership of any committee on 1 day's notice.

S30-20. Standing committees — classification. (1) The standing committees of the Senate are as follows:

(a) class one committees:

(i) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs;

(ii) Finance and Claims;

(iii) Judiciary; and

(iv) Taxation;

(b) class two committees:

(i) Education and Cultural Resources;

(ii) Local Government;

(iii) Natural Resources;

(iv) Public Health, Welfare, and Safety; and

(v) State Administration;

(c) class three committees:

(i) Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation;

(ii) Energy and Telecommunications;

(iii) Fish and Game; and

(iv) Highways and Transportation; and

(d) on-call committees:

(i) Ethics;

(ii) Legislative Administration; and

(iii) Rules.

(2) A class 1 committee is scheduled to meet Monday through Friday. A class 2 committee is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A class 3 committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday. Unless a class is prescribed for a committee, it meets upon the call of the chair.

(3) The Legislative Council shall review the workload of the standing committees to determine if any change is indicated in the class of a standing committee for the next legislative session. The Legislative Council's recommendations must be submitted to the leadership nominated or elected at the presession caucus provided for in 5-2-201.



S30-40. Ex officio members — quorum. (1) A quorum of a committee is a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum of a committee must be present at a meeting to act officially. A quorum of a committee may transact business, and a majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the committee, is sufficient for committee action.

(2) The majority leader and the minority leader are ex officio nonvoting members of all committees in order to establish a quorum.

S30-50. Chair's duties. (1) The chair of a committee is the presiding officer of that committee and is responsible for:

- (a) maintaining order within the committee room and its environs;
- (b) scheduling hearings and executive action;
- (c) supervising committee work, including the appointment of subcommittees to act on a formal or informal basis; and
- (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.

(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.

S30-60. Meetings — notice — purpose — minutes. (1) All meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times, subject always to the power and authority of the chair to maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and place of committee meetings must be announced.

(2) Notice of a committee hearing must be made by posting the date, time, and subject of the hearing in a conspicuous public place not less than 3 legislative days in advance of the hearing. This 3-day notice requirement does not apply to hearings scheduled:

- (a) prior to the third legislative day;
- (b) less than 10 legislative days before the transmittal deadline applicable to the subject of the hearing;
- (c) to consider confirmation of a gubernatorial appointment received less than 10 legislative days before the last scheduled day of a legislative session; or
- (d) due to appropriate circumstances.

(3) When a committee hearing is scheduled with less than 3 days' notice, the committee chair shall use all practical means to disseminate notice of the hearing to the public.

(4) Notice of conference committee hearings must be given as provided in Joint Rule 30-30.

(5) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

- (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;
- (b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters without testimony; or
- (c) a work session at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

(6) All committees meet at the call of the chair or upon the request of a majority of the members of the committee.

(7) A committee may not meet during the time the Senate is in session without leave of the President. Any Senator attending a meeting while the Senate is in session must be considered excused to attend business of the Senate subject to a call of the Senate.



(8) 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 must contain at least the following information:

- (a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;
- (b) committee members present, excused, or absent;
- (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;
- (d) all motions and their disposition;
- (e) the results of all votes; and
- (f) all testimony and exhibits.

(9) If a bill is heard in a joint committee, it must be referred to a standing committee. The standing committee is not required to hold an additional hearing but shall take executive action and may report the bill to the Committee of the Whole.

(10) A bill or resolution may not be considered or become a law unless referred to a committee and returned from a committee.

(11) A bill may be rereferred at any time before its passage.

S30-70. Procedures — member privileges. (1) The chair shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the committee of the time and place it will be considered.

(2) A standing or select committee may not hear legislation unless the sponsor or one of the cosponsors is present or unless the sponsor has given written consent.

(3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b), the committee shall act on each bill in its possession:

- (i) by reporting the bill out of the committee:
 - (A) with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee;
 - (B) favorably as to passage; or
 - (C) unfavorably; or
- (ii) by tabling the measure in committee.

(b) At the written request of the sponsor made at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled hearing, a committee shall finally dispose of a bill without a hearing. Except as provided in S30-60(9), a bill may not be reported from a committee without a hearing.

(4) The committee may not report a bill to the Senate without recommendation.

(5) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee shall include in its report:

- (a) the measure in the form reported out;
- (b) the recommendation of the committee;
- (c) an identification of all proposed changes; and
- (d) a fiscal note, if required.

(6) If a measure is taken from a committee and brought to the Senate floor for debate on second reading on that day without a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments formally adopted by the committee because committee amendments are merely recommendations to the Senate that are formally adopted when the committee report is accepted by the Senate.

(7) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required in order for the motion to be considered by the committee.

(8) The vote of each member on all committee actions must be recorded and reported in the committee minutes. All motions may be adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting.



(9) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at any meeting of the committee.

(10) An action formally taken by a committee may not be altered in the committee except by reconsideration and further formal action of the committee.

(11) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the matter remains in the possession of the committee. A bill is in the possession of the committee until a report on the bill is made to the Committee of the Whole. A committee member need not have voted with the prevailing side in order to move reconsideration.

(12) The chair shall decide points of order.

(13) The privileges of committee members include the following:

- (a) to participate freely in committee discussions and debate;
- (b) to offer motions;
- (c) to assert points of order and privilege;
- (d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chair;
- (e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and
- (f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy, using a standard form.

(14) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of telephone or other electronic communication must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Senate Rules.

(15) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or more related bills referred to it whenever legislation may be simplified by the consolidation.

(16) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any questions arise on committee procedure, the rules or practices of the Senate are applicable except as stated in the Senate Rules.

S30-80. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions. (1) Testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee. All persons, other than the sponsor, offering testimony shall register on the committee witness list.

(2) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee hearing a bill or resolution must be given a reasonable opportunity to do so, orally or in writing, subject to time constraints. Written testimony may not be required of any witness, but all witnesses must be encouraged to submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record.

(3) The chair may order the committee room cleared of visitors if there is disorderly conduct. During committee meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chair. Restrictions on time available for testimony may be announced.

(4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed the maximum posted by the State Fire Marshall. The chair shall maintain that limit.

(5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras, television, radio, or any form of telecommunication equipment is allowed, but the chair may designate the areas of the hearing room from which the equipment must be operated. Cell phone use is at the discretion of the chair.

S30-100. Pairs prohibited — absentee 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.

S30-140. Reconsideration in committee. A committee may at any time prior to submitting a report to the Secretary of the Senate reconsider its previous action on legislation.



S30-150. Committee requested legislation. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), at least three-fourths of all the members of a standing committee must have voted in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting and introduction of legislation.

(b) The Finance and Claims Committee may request the drafting and introduction of legislation by a majority vote of all of the members of the committee.

(2) The chair of a committee shall introduce, or shall designate a member of the committee to introduce, legislation requested by the committee. The introduced bill must be referred to the requesting committee.

S30-160. 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 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 Senator. The Rules Committee shall prepare a written statement of the specific question or issue to be addressed by the Ethics Committee. The issues referred to the Ethics Committee must be related to the actions of a Senator during a legislative session.

(2) The matters that may be referred to the Ethics Committee are:

(a) a violation of:

(i) 2-2-103;

(ii) 2-2-104;

(iii) 2-2-111;

(iv) 2-2-112;

(b) the use or threatened use of a Senator's position for personal or personal business benefit or advantage; or

(c) any other violation of law by a Senator while acting in the capacity of Senator.

(3) If there is a recommendation from the Ethics Committee, the recommendation is made to the Senate.

(4) As provided in 2-2-112, a Senator may seek a determination from the Ethics Committee concerning the possibility of a personal conflict of interest.



CHAPTER 4

Legislation

S40-10. Types of legislation. The only types of legislation that may be introduced in the Senate are those that have been drafted and approved by the Legislative Services Division and signed by a Senator as chief sponsor. The types of legislation allowed include:

- (1) bills of any subject, except appropriations;
- (2) joint resolutions, which may be used for any purpose specified in Joint Rule 40-60; and
- (3) simple resolutions, which may:
 - (a) adopt or amend Senate rules;
 - (b) provide for the internal affairs of the Senate;
 - (c) express confirmation of the Governor's appointments; or
 - (d) make recommendations concerning the districting and apportionment plan as provided by Article V, section 14(4), of the Montana Constitution.

S40-20. Introduction — first reading. (1) Upon receiving a bill or resolution from a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate shall assign an appropriate sequential number, which constitutes introduction of the legislation. Legislation properly introduced or received in the Senate must be announced across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or motion is in order except that a Senator may question adherence to rules. Acknowledgment by the Secretary of the Senate of receipt of legislation transmitted from the House commences the time limit for consideration of the legislation. All legislation received by the Senate may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum.

(2) Bills and resolutions preintroduced as provided in Joint Rule 40-40 may be assigned to committee and printed prior to the legislative session. The Legislative Services Division is responsible for ensuring the preintroduction intent from each Senator and presenting the preintroduced legislation to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Upon referral to committee, the Secretary of the Senate shall publicly post a listing of the bill or resolution by a summary of its title, together with a notation of the committee to which it has been assigned.

(4) The sponsor may ask the Legislative Services Division to change or correct a short title used on the bill status system.

S40-30. Additional sponsors. (1) Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill or resolution. Forms for adding sponsors will be supplied on request by the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) Upon passage of the motion, the names of the additional sponsors will be printed in the journal and the form containing the signatures of the additional sponsors will be forwarded to the Legislative Services Division with the original bill for the inclusion of the names in subsequent printings of the bill or resolution.

S40-40. Reading limitations. (1) Every bill must be read three times prior to passage, either by title or by summary of title as provided in these rules.

(2) A bill or resolution may not have more than one reading on the same day except the last legislative day.

(3) An amendment may not be offered on third reading.

S40-60. Scheduling for second reading. (1) All bills and resolutions that have been reported by a committee or withdrawn from a committee by motion, accepted by the Senate, and reproduced must be scheduled for consideration by Committee of the Whole.



(2) Until the 50th legislative day, 1 day must elapse between receiving the legislation from printing and scheduling for second reading for consideration by Committee of the Whole unless a printed version of an unamended bill is available.

(3) The majority leader shall arrange legislation on the agenda in the order in which the bills will be considered, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate or Committee of the Whole.



CHAPTER 5

Floor Action

S50-10. Attendance — mandatory voting — quorum. (1) Unless excused, Senators must be present at every sitting of the Senate and shall vote on questions put before the Senate.

(2) A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent Senators, in the manner and under penalties as the Senate may prescribe (Montana Constitution, Art. V, sec. 10(2)).

S50-20. Orders of business. After prayer, roll call, and report on the journal, the order of business of the Senate is as follows:

- (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) motions;
- (7) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (8) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole);
- (9) third reading of bills;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

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.

S50-30. Limitations on debate. A Senator may not speak more than twice on any one motion or question without unanimous consent of the Senate, unless the Senator has introduced or proposed the motion or question under debate, in which case the Senator may speak twice and also close the debate. However, a Senator who has spoken may not speak again on the same motion or question to the exclusion of a Senator who has not spoken.

S50-40. Procedure upon offering a motion. (1) When a motion is offered it must be restated by the presiding officer. If requested by the presiding officer or a Senator, it must be reduced to writing, presented at the rostrum, and read aloud by the Secretary.

(2) A motion may be withdrawn by the Senator offering it at any time before it is amended or voted upon.

S50-50. Precedence of motions. (1) When a question is under debate only the following privileged and subsidiary motions may be made:

- (a) to adjourn (nondebatable S50-60);
- (b) for a call of the Senate (nondebatable S50-60);
- (c) to recess (nondebatable S50-60);
- (d) question of privilege;
- (e) to lay on the table (nondebatable S50-60);
- (f) for the previous question (nondebatable S50-60);



- (g) to postpone to a certain day;
- (h) to refer or commit;
- (i) to amend; and
- (j) to postpone indefinitely.

(2) The motions listed in subsection (1) have precedence in the order listed.

(3) A question may be indefinitely postponed by a majority roll call of all Senators present and voting. When a bill or resolution is postponed indefinitely, it is finally rejected and may not be acted upon again except upon a motion of reconsideration as provided in S50-90.

(4) A motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration may not be accepted unless a substitute motion is in order.

S50-60. Nondebatable motions. The following motions are not debatable:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) for a call of the Senate;
- (3) to recess or rise;
- (4) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (5) for suspension of the rules;
- (6) to lay on the table;
- (7) for the previous question;
- (8) to limit, extend the limits of, or to close debate;
- (9) to amend an undebatable motion;
- (10) to change a vote (S50-200);
- (11) to pass business in Committee of the Whole;
- (12) to take from the table;
- (13) a decision of the presiding officer, unless appealed or unless the presiding officer submits the question to the Senate for advice or decision; and
- (14) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or other questions of a general procedural nature.

S50-70. Amending motions — restrictions. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no more than one amendment and no more than one substitute motion may be made to a motion. This rule permits the main motion and two modifying motions.

(2) A motion for a call of the Senate, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

S50-80. Previous question. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the effect of calling for the previous question, if adopted, is to close debate immediately, to prevent the offering of amendments or other subsidiary motions, and to bring to vote promptly the immediately pending main question and the adhering subsidiary motions, whether on appeal or otherwise. The motion for the previous question is nondebatable as provided in S50-60(7).

(2) When the previous question is ordered on any debatable question on which there has been no debate, the question may be debated for one-half hour, one-half of that time to be given to the proponents and one-half to the opponents. The sponsor of the main motion on which the previous question is adopted may close on the motion regardless of whether debate on the main motion has occurred.

(3) A call of the Senate is not in order after the previous question is ordered unless it appears upon an actual count by the presiding officer that a quorum is not present.



S50-90. Reconsideration — time restrictions. (1) Subject to subsection (6), any Senator may, on the day the vote was taken or on the next day the Senate is in session, move to reconsider the question. A motion to reconsider is a debatable motion, but the debate is limited to the motion. The debate on a motion to reconsider may not address the substance of the matter for which reconsideration is sought. However, an inquiry may be made concerning the purpose of the motion to reconsider.

(2) A motion to reconsider must be disposed of when made unless a proper substitute motion is made and adopted.

(3) A motion to recall a bill from the House of Representatives constitutes notice to reconsider and must be acted on as a motion to reconsider. A motion to reconsider or to recall a bill from the House of Representatives may be made only under Order of Business No. 6 and, under that order of business, takes precedence over all motions except motions to recess or adjourn.

(4) When a motion to reconsider is laid on the table, a two-thirds majority is required to take it from the table. When a motion to reconsider fails, the question is finally and conclusively settled.

(5) If a motion to reconsider third reading action is carried, there may not be further action until the succeeding legislative day.

(6) If the Senate has adjourned for more than 2 days, then a motion to reconsider action taken on the last day the Senate was in session is in order on the day the Senate reconvenes or on the following legislative day.

S50-100. Dividing a question — segregation excluded. A Senator may request to divide a question if it includes two or more propositions so distinct in substance that if one thing is taken away a substantive question will remain. A vote is not required on a request to divide a question, but the chair may rule that a question is not divisible. The ruling of the chair may be appealed as provided in S20-10 and S20-20. For an appeal of a ruling of the presiding officer, the question for the Senate must be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be upheld?". A motion to segregate pursuant to S50-140(4) is not a request to divide a question.

S50-110. Rules for questions or bills requiring other than a majority vote. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a question or bill requires more than a majority vote for final passage, a majority vote is sufficient to decide any question relating to the question or bill prior to third reading.

(2) Any vote in the Senate on a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote. This rule does not prevent a committee from indefinitely postponing or tabling a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution.

(3) If a bill has been amended in the House of Representatives and the amendments are accepted by the Senate, the bill must again be placed on third reading in the Senate to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

S50-120. Committee reports to Senate — reconsideration. (1) Reports of standing committees must be read on Order of Business No. 2, and, subject to subsection (4), debate may not be had on any report.

(2) On an adverse committee report, the sponsor may respond to the chair of the committee making the report.

(3) Any Senator seeking a reconsideration of the Senate's action on the adoption of a committee report shall do so on Order of Business No. 6 by motion to reconsider as provided in S50-90. Any Senator may make the reconsideration motion and need not have voted on the prevailing side. This rule applies notwithstanding any joint rule to the contrary. Subject to S50-90(6), the reconsideration motion must be made within 1 legislative day of the adoption of the committee report and is not in order if the bill has been considered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) (a) Subject to subsection (4)(b), the Rules Committee and conference committees may report at any time, except during a call of the Senate, when a vote is being taken, or during Committee of the Whole.



(b) The Rules Committee may report during Committee of the Whole on matters referred to the Committee by the Committee of the Whole.

S50-130. Conference committee — reports. (1) When a conference committee report is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, the report must be read under Order of Business No. 3, select committees, and placed on the calendar the succeeding legislative day for consideration on second reading. If recommended favorably by the Committee of the Whole, it may be considered on third reading the same legislative day.

(2) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives adopt the same conference committee report on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the Senate, following approval of the conference committee report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the Senate rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the President or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

(4) A Senate conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any House conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the Senate.

S50-140. Second reading — Committee of the Whole report — segregation — rejection. (1) The Senate may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading, by approval of a motion for that purpose.

(2) After a Committee of the Whole has been formed, the President shall appoint a chair to preside.

(3) All legislation considered in the Committee of the Whole must be read by a summary of its title. The sponsor shall make an opening statement, proposed amendments must be considered, and then the bill must be considered in its entirety.

(4) Prior to adoption of the Committee of the Whole report, a Senator may move to segregate legislation. If the motion prevails, the legislation remains on second reading.

(5) When a Committee of the Whole report on legislation is rejected, the legislation remains on second reading.

S50-150. Committee of the Whole amendments. (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments must be prepared by the staff of the Legislative Services Division, stipulating the date and time of preparation and staff approval, and delivered to the Secretary of the Senate for reading before the amendment is voted on.

(2) Each amendment, rejected or adopted, must be printed in the journal, along with the name of the sponsor and the vote on each.

S50-160. Motions in Committee of the Whole. (1) All proper motions on second reading are debatable unless specified in S50-60.

(2) The only motions in order during Committee of the Whole are to:

- (a) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (b) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence (House amendments to Senate legislation);
- (c) amend;
- (d) indefinitely postpone;
- (e) pass consideration;
- (f) change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda (nondebatable S50-60(14));
- (g) rise (nondebatable S50-60(3));
- (h) rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again (nondebatable S50-60(3)); or
- (i) rise and report (nondebatable S50-60(3)).



(3) The motions listed in subsection (2) may be made in descending order as listed.

S50-170. Committee of the Whole — generally. (1) The Committee of the Whole may not appoint subcommittees.

(2) The Committee of the Whole may not punish its members for misconduct, but may report disorder to the Senate.

S50-180. Voting on second reading — positive disposition of motions. (1) On Order of Business No. 8, in addition to other methods, a recorded vote may be made in the following manner: the chair may call for a voice vote to accept or reject a question. If the vote is other than unanimous, the chair may ask that the lesser number on the question indicate their vote by standing. The Secretary will then record the vote of those standing. The chair may then rule that unless excused those not standing and present have voted on the prevailing side of the question and that their vote be recorded as voting on the prevailing side. If there was a unanimous voice vote, all those present will be recorded as having voted for the question.

(2) A motion on second reading must be disposed of by a positive vote.

S50-190. Third reading procedure. (1) Unless rereferred to a committee by a majority vote after the adoption of the Committee of the Whole report but before moving to another order of business, all legislation passing second reading must be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

(2) On Order of Business No. 9 the Secretary shall read the title and the President shall state the question as follows: “Senate bill number (or other appropriate identification)..... having been read three several times, the question is, shall the bill (or other appropriate identification) pass the Senate?”

(3) If an electronic voting system is used, the President shall state “Those in favor vote yes and those opposed vote no” and the Secretary will sound the signal and open the board for voting. After a reasonable pause the presiding officer asks “Has every member voted?” (reasonable pause), “Does any member wish to change his or her vote?” (reasonable pause), “The Secretary will record the vote.”

S50-200. Senate voting — changing a vote — objection. (1) A roll call vote must be taken on the request of two Senators, if the request occurs before the vote is taken.

(2) On a roll call vote the names of the Senators must be called alphabetically, unless an electronic voting system is used. A Senator may not vote after the decision is announced from the chair. A Senator may not explain a vote until after the decision is announced from the chair.

(3) A Senator may move to change the Senator’s vote, on any recorded vote, within 1 legislative day of the vote. The Senator making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the date of the vote, and the original vote tally. A vote may not be changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation. The motion is nondebatable. If none of the Senators present object, the change must be entered into the journal.

(4) If any Senator objects to the request in subsection (3), the Senator making the request may move to suspend the rules to allow the Senator to change the Senator’s vote.

(5) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote within 10 minutes of the malfunction.

S50-210. Pairs. (1) Two Senators may pair on a question that will be determined by a majority vote. On a question requiring a two-thirds vote for adoption, three Senators may pair, with two Senators for the question and one Senator against. Pairing is permitted only when one of the paired Senators is excused when the vote is taken.

(2) An agreement to pair must be in writing and dated and signed by the Senators agreeing to be bound and must specify the duration of the pair. When an agreement to pair is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, it binds the Senators signing until the expiration of time for which it was signed, unless the paired Senators sooner appear and ask that the agreement be canceled.

S50-220. Call of the Senate. (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of Senators present may compel the attendance of absent Senators by ordering a call of the Senate.

(2) If a quorum is present, five Senators may order a call of the Senate.



(3) On a call of the Senate, a Senator who refuses to attend may be arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms or any other person, as the majority of the Senators present direct. When the attendance of an absent Senator is secured and the Senate refuses to excuse the Senator's absence, the Senator may not be paid any expense payments while absent and is liable for the expenses incurred in procuring the Senator's attendance.

(4) During a call of the Senate, all business must be suspended. After a call has been ordered, no motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or remove the call. The call may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

S50-230. House amendments to Senate legislation. (1) When the House has properly returned Senate legislation with House amendments, the Senate shall announce the amendments on Order of Business No. 5 and the President shall place them on second reading for debate. The President may rerefer Senate legislation with House amendments to a committee for a hearing if the House amendments constitute a significant change in the Senate legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration of the House amendments.

(2) If the Senate accepts House amendments, the Senate shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the Senate rejects the House amendments, the Senate may request the House to recede from its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the House to appoint a like committee.

S50-240. Governor's amendments. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended amendments, the Senate shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 4.

(2) The Senate may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the Senate shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

S50-250. Governor's veto. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the Senate shall announce the veto under Order of Business No. 4.

(2) On any legislative day, a Senator may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business No. 6.



CHAPTER 6

Rules

S60-10. Senate rules — amendment — adoption — suspension. (1) A motion to amend or adopt a rule of the Senate must be referred to the Rules Committee without debate. A rule of the Senate may be amended or adopted only with the concurrence of a majority of the Senate and after 1 day's notice.

(2) A rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote.

S60-20. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2010) governs the proceedings of the Senate in all cases not covered by these rules.



CHAPTER 7

Nominations from the Governor

S70-10. Nominations. (1) The Governor shall nominate and, by and with the consent of the Senate, appoint all officers whose offices are established by the Montana Constitution or which may be created by law and for whom appointment or election is not otherwise provided.

(2) If during a recess of the Senate a vacancy occurs in any office subject to Senate confirmation, the Governor shall appoint some fit person to discharge the duties of the office until the next meeting of the Senate, when the Governor shall nominate a person to fill the office.

S70-20. Receiving nominations — requesting bill drafts. (1) Nominations received from the Governor must be:

- (a) received by the President;
- (b) delivered to the Secretary of the Senate; and
- (c) read under Order of Business No. 4, messages from the Governor.

(2) The Secretary shall distribute a copy of the list of nominations to each Senator.

(3) (a) The President of the Senate shall submit a bill draft request for a resolution for each nominee or each group of nominees read under Order of Business No. 4. These bill draft requests will not count against any bill draft request limit imposed on the President of the Senate.

(b) Prior to introduction of the resolution, the President of the Senate shall designate the appropriate committee chair to introduce the simple resolution.

S70-30. Committee process — preliminary reports — separate consideration. (1) (a) The committee shall research each nominee and may request biographical information from the Governor for each nominee if none has been provided.

(b) When the resolution has been prepared and introduced, the committee shall hold a hearing on the resolution after appropriate public notice has been given.

(2) Following the hearings for a group of nominees, the committee shall issue preliminary standing committee reports to be distributed to each Senator, stating the committee's recommendations concerning the nominees. A preliminary standing committee report is not required for a resolution for a single nominee pursuant to subsection (5).

(3) (a) If a Senator wishes to have an individual nominee or group of nominees considered by the Senate separately from the group of nominees recommended by the committee, the Senator may request of the chair of the committee that the nominee or nominees be considered by a separate resolution.

(b) A Senator shall request separate consideration of a nominee within 3 days of receipt of the preliminary standing committee report. The committee chair shall honor this request.

(4) After waiting 3 days from the day of distribution of the preliminary standing committee report, the committee chair shall issue a final standing committee report and deliver the report to the Secretary of the Senate.

(a) If a nominee is to be separated from the resolution, the final standing committee report must include an amendment deleting that nominee.

(b) When a nominee has been separated at the request of a Senator or when a single nomination has been submitted to a committee, the committee chair shall submit a bill draft request on behalf of the committee for a simple resolution to include only the single or separated nominee. When the resolution has been prepared and introduced, the committee shall take executive action on the resolution. When a hearing on the separated nomination was held prior to the committee's preliminary standing committee report, an additional hearing is not required to be held before the committee takes action on the separate resolution. After the committee's executive action, the committee chair shall issue a standing committee report.



(5) If a resolution contains only one nominee, the committee shall dispense with the preliminary standing committee report and shall issue a final standing committee report to be distributed to each Senator stating the committee's recommendation concerning the nominee.

(6) The Secretary will read the reports under Order of Business No. 2, reports of standing committees.

(7) After the report has been read, the resolution must be placed on Order of Business No. 11 the next legislative day for consideration by the Senate. Motions to approve or disapprove of the resolution are in order and may be debated.



Appendix A

List of Questions Requiring Other Than a Majority Vote

The following questions require the vote specified:

- (1) a call of the Senate with a quorum pursuant to S50-220(2) (five Senators);
- (2) a motion to lift a call of the Senate pursuant to S50-220(4) (two-thirds of the members present);
- (3) a motion to amend or suspend rules pursuant to S60-10 (two-thirds);
- (4) a motion to override the Governor's veto pursuant to S50-250 and Article VI, section 10(3), of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);
- (5) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths of each house);
- (6) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution for purposes other than those described in that section (three-fifths of each house);
- (7) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution pursuant to Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature);
- (8) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer pursuant to S20-10 (one Senator, seconded by two other Senators);
- (9) a motion to approve a bill conferring immunity from suit as described in Article II, section 18, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);
- (10) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the tobacco settlement trust fund pursuant to Article XII, section 4, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds); and
- (11) a motion to appropriate the principal of the noxious weed management trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 6, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths).



HOUSE RULES



CHAPTER 1

Administration

H10-10. House officers — definitions. (1) House officers include a Speaker, a Speaker pro tempore, majority and minority leaders, and majority and minority whips (section 5-2-221, MCA).

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

(3) (a) “Majority leader” means the leader of the majority party, elected by the caucus as provided in 5-2-221.

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

(c) “Minority leader” means the leader of the minority party, elected by the caucus as provided in 5-2-221.

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

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

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.

(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.

(3) Signs, placards, 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.

(4) The Speaker shall sign all necessary certifications by the House, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals (section 5-11-201, MCA), subpoenas, and payrolls.

(5) The Speaker shall arrange the agendas for second and third readings each legislative day. Representatives may amend the agendas as provided in H40-130.

(6) The Speaker is the chief officer of the House, with authority for all House employees.

(7) The Speaker may name any member to perform the duties of the chair. If the House is not in session and the Speaker pro tempore is not available, the Speaker shall name a member who shall call the House to order and preside during the Speaker’s absence.

(8) Upon request of the Minority Leader, the Speaker will submit a request for a fiscal note on any bill.

H10-30. Speaker-elect. During the transition period between the party organization caucuses and the election of House officers, the Speaker-elect has the responsibilities and authority appropriate to organize the House (section 5-2-202, MCA). Authority includes approving presession expenditures.

H10-40. Speaker pro tempore duties. The Speaker pro tempore shall, in the absence or inability of the Speaker, call the House to order and perform all other duties of the chair in presiding over the deliberations of the House and shall perform other duties and exercise other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Speaker.

H10-50. Majority Leader. The primary functions of the majority leader usually relate to floor duties. The duties of the majority leader may include but are not limited to:

(1) being the lead speaker for the majority party during floor debates;

(2) helping the Speaker develop the calendar;



- (3) assisting the Speaker with program development, policy formation, and policy decisions; and
- (4) presiding over the majority caucus meetings; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-60. Majority Whip. The duties of the majority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the majority leader;
- (2) ensuring member attendance;
- (3) counting votes;
- (4) generally communicating the majority position; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-70. Minority Leader. The minority leader is the principal leader of the minority caucus. The duties of the minority leader may include but are not limited to:

- (1) developing the minority position;
- (2) negotiating with the majority party;
- (3) directing minority caucus activities on the chamber floor;
- (4) leading debate for the minority; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-80. Minority Whip. The major responsibilities for the minority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the minority leader on the floor;
- (2) counting votes;
- (3) ensuring attendance of minority party members; and
- (4) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

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 (section 5-2-221, MCA).

(2) The Speaker shall employ necessary staff or delegate that function to the employees designated in subsection (1).

(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.

(4) The Speaker and majority and minority leaders may each appoint a private secretary.

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:

- (1) supervise all House employees;
- (2) have custody of all records and documents of the House;
- (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 the Montana Historical Society.

H10-110. Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:



(1) under the direction of the Speaker and the Chief Clerk, have charge of and maintain order in the House, its lobbies, galleries, and hallways and all other rooms in the Capitol assigned for the use of the House;

(2) be present whenever the House is in session and at any other time as directed by the presiding officer;

(3) execute the commands of the House and serve the writs and processes issued by the authority of the House and directed by the Speaker;

(4) supervise assistants to the Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall aid in the performance of prescribed duties and who have the same authority, subject to the control of the Speaker;

(5) clear the floor and anteroom of the House of all persons not entitled to the privileges of the floor prior to the convening of each session of the House;

(6) bring in absent members when so directed under a call of the House;

(7) enforce the distribution of any printed matter in the House chambers and anteroom in accordance with H20-70;

(8) enforce parking regulations applicable to areas of the Capitol complex under the control of the House;

(9) supervise the doorkeeper; and

(10) supervise the pages.

H10-120. Legislative aides. (1) A legislative aide is a person specifically designated by a representative to assist that representative in performing legislative duties. A representative may sponsor one legislative aide a session by written notification to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

(2) No representative may designate a second legislative aide in the same session without the approval of the House Rules Committee.

(3) A legislative aide must be of legal age unless otherwise approved by the House Rules Committee.

(4) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall issue distinctive identification tags to legislative aides. The cost must be paid by the sponsoring representative.

H10-140. House journal. (1) The House shall keep a journal, which is the official record of House actions (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10). The journal must be prepared under the direction of the Speaker.

(2) Records of the following proceedings must be entered on the journal:

(a) the taking and subscription of the constitutional oath by representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 3; 5-2-214);

(b) committee reports;

(c) messages from the Governor;

(d) messages from the Senate;

(e) every motion, the name of the representative presenting it, and its disposition;

(f) the introduction of legislation in the House;

(g) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;

(h) on final passage of legislation, the names of the representatives and their vote on the question (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11);

(i) roll call votes; and

(j) upon a request by two representatives before a vote is taken, the names of the representatives and their votes on the question.



(3) The Chief Clerk shall provide to the Legislative Services Division such information as may be required for the publication of the daily journal.

(4) Any representative may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. The Speaker may direct a correction to be made when suggested subject to objection by the House.

(5) The Speaker shall authenticate the House journal after the close of the session (section 5-11-201, MCA).

(6) The Legislative Services Division shall publish and distribute the House journal (sections 5-11-202 and 5-11-203, MCA). The title of each bill must be listed in the index of the published session journal.

H10-150. Votes recorded and public. Every vote of each representative on each substantive question in the House, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made public (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11).

H10-160. Duration of legislative day. A legislative day ends either 24 hours after the House convenes for that day or at the time the House convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier. (See Joint Rule 10-20.)



CHAPTER 2

Decorum

H20-10. Addressing the House — recognition. (1) When a member desires to speak to or address any matter to the House, the member should rise and respectfully address the Speaker or the presiding officer.

(2) The Speaker or presiding officer may ask, “For what purpose does the member rise?” or “For what purpose does the member seek recognition?” and may then decide if recognition is to be granted. There is no appeal from the Speaker’s or presiding officer’s decision.

H20-20. Questions of order and privilege — appeal — restrictions. (1) The Speaker shall decide all questions of order and privilege, subject to an appeal by any representative seconded by two representatives. The question on appeal is, “Shall the decision of the chairman be sustained?”.

(2) Responses to parliamentary inquiries and decisions of recognition may not be appealed.

(3) Questions of order and privilege, in order of precedence, are:

(a) those affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, and integrity of the House; and

(b) those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of individual representatives.

(4) A member may not address the House on a question of privilege between the time:

(a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion;

(b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous question; or

(c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion.

H20-30. Limits on lobbying. Lobbying on the House floor and in the anteroom is prohibited during a daily session, 2 hours before the session, and 2 hours after the session. A registered lobbyist is prohibited from the house floor.

H20-40. Admittance to the House floor. (1) The following persons may be admitted to the House floor during a daily session: present legislators and former legislators who are not registered lobbyists; legislative employees necessary for the conduct of the session; registered media representatives; and members’ spouses and children. The Speaker may allow exceptions to this rule.

(2) Only a member may sit in a member’s chair when the House is in session.

H20-50. Dilatory motions or questions — appeal. The House has a right to protect itself from dilatory motions or questions used for the purpose of delaying or obstructing business. The presiding officer shall decide if motions (except a call of the House) or questions are dilatory. This decision may be appealed to the House.

H20-60. Lobbying by employees — sanctions. (1) A legislative employee or aide of either house is prohibited from lobbying, although a legislative committee may request testimony from a person so restricted.

(2) The Speaker may discipline or discharge any House employee violating this prohibition. The Speaker may withdraw the privileges of any House aide violating this prohibition.

H20-70. Papers distributed on desks — exception. A paper concerning proposed legislation may not be placed on representatives’ desks unless it is authorized by a member and permission has been granted by the Speaker. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall direct its distribution. This restriction does not apply to material prepared by staff and placed on a representative’s desk at the request of the representative.

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.



(2) The member called to order may move for an appeal to the House and if the motion is seconded by two members, the matter must be submitted to the House for determination by majority vote. The motion is nondebatable.

(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.

(4) If a member is called to order, the matter may be referred to the Rules Committee by the majority or minority leader. The Committee may recommend to the House that the member be censured or be subject to other action. The House shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.



CHAPTER 3

Committees

H30-10. House standing committees — appointments — classification. (1) (a) The Speaker shall determine the total number of members and after good faith consultation with the minority leader shall appoint the chairs, vice chairs, and members to the standing committees.

(b) The minority leader shall designate a minority vice chair for each standing committee.

(2) The standing committees of the House are as follows:

(a) class one committees:

(i) Appropriations;

(ii) Business and Labor;

(iii) Judiciary;

(iv) State Administration; and

(v) Taxation;

(b) class two committees:

(i) Education;

(ii) federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications;

(iii) Human Services;

(iv) Natural Resources; and

(v) Transportation;

(c) class three committees:

(i) Agriculture;

(ii) Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and

(iii) Local Government; and

(d) on call committees:

(i) Ethics;

(ii) Rules; and

(iii) Legislative Administration.

(3) A class 1 committee is scheduled to meet Monday through Friday. A class 2 committee is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A class 3 committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday. Unless a class is prescribed for a committee, it meets upon the call of the chair.

(4) The Legislative Council shall review the workload of the standing committees to determine if any change is indicated in the class of a standing committee for the next legislative session. The Legislative Council's recommendations must be submitted to the leadership nominated or elected at the presession caucus provided for in 5-2-201.

(5) There will be six subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations, Education, General Government, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Transportation, Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice, and Long-Range Planning. Each member serving on the Appropriations Committee must be appointed to at least one of the subcommittees.

(6) The Speaker shall give notice of each appointment to the Chief Clerk for publication.

(7) The Speaker may, in the Speaker's discretion or as authorized by the House, create and appoint select committees, designating the chairman and vice chairman of the select committee. Select



committees may request or receive legislation in the same manner as a standing committee and are subject to the rules of standing committees.

H30-20. Chairman's duties. (1) The principal duties of the chairman of standing or select committees are to:

- (a) preside over meetings of the committee and to put all questions;
- (b) maintain order and decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the committee;
- (c) supervise and direct staff of the committee;
- (d) have the committee secretary keep the official record of the minutes;
- (e) sign reports of the committee and submit them promptly to the Chief Clerk;
- (f) appoint subcommittees to perform on a formal or an informal basis as provided in subsection (2); and
- (g) inform the Speaker of committee activity.

(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.

H30-30. Quorum — officers as members. (1) A quorum of a committee is a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum of a committee must be present at a meeting to act officially. A quorum of a committee may transact business, and a majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the committee, is sufficient for committee action.

(2) The Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader are ex officio, nonvoting members of all House committees. They may count toward establishing a quorum.

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.

(2) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

- (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;
- (b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters without testimony; or
- (c) a work session at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

(3) All committees meet at the call of the chairman or upon the request of a majority of the members of the committee directed to and with the approval of the Speaker.

(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.

(5) A committee may not meet during the time the House is in session without leave of the Speaker. Any member attending such a meeting must be considered excused to attend business of the House subject to a call of the House.

(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 must contain at least the following information:

- (a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;
- (b) committee members present, excused, or absent;



- (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;
- (d) all motions and their disposition;
- (e) the results of all votes;
- (f) references to the recording log, sufficient to serve as an index to the original recording; and
- (g) testimony and exhibits submitted in writing.

H30-50. Procedures — absentee or proxy voting — member privileges. (1) The chairman shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the committee of the time and place it will be considered.

(2) A standing or select committee may not take up referred legislation unless the sponsor or one of the cosponsors is present or unless the sponsor has given written consent. The chairman shall attempt to not schedule Senate bills while the Senate is in session.

(3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b), the committee shall act on each bill in its possession:

(i) by reporting the bill out of the committee:

(A) with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee;

(B) favorably as to passage; or

(C) unfavorably; or

(ii) by tabling the measure in committee.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (3)(c), at the written request of the sponsor made at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled hearing, a bill may be withdrawn by the sponsor without a hearing. A bill may not be reported from a committee without a hearing.

(c) A bill may not be withdrawn by the sponsor after a hearing.

(4) The committee may not report a bill to the House without recommendation.

(5) The committee may recommend that a bill on which it has made a favorable recommendation by unanimous vote be placed on the consent calendar. A tie vote in a standing committee on the question of a recommendation to the whole House on a matter before the committee, for example on a question of whether a bill is recommended as “do pass” or “do not pass”, does not result in the matter passing out to the whole House for consideration without recommendation.

(6) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee shall include in its report:

(a) the measure in the form reported out;

(b) the recommendation of the committee;

(c) an identification of all substantive changes; and

(d) a fiscal note, if required.

(7) If a measure is withdrawn from a committee and brought to the House floor for debate on second reading on that day without a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments formally adopted by the committee because committee amendments are merely recommendations to the House that are formally adopted when the committee report is accepted by the House.

(8) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required in order for the motion to be considered by the committee.

(9) The vote of each member on all committee actions must be recorded. All motions may be adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize members to vote by proxy if absent, while engaged in other legislative business or when excused by the presiding officer of the committee due to illness or an emergency. Authorization for absentee or proxy voting must be reflected in the committee minutes.



(10) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at any meeting of the committee.

(11) An action formally taken by a committee may not be altered in the committee except by reconsideration and further formal action of the committee.

(12) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the matter remains in the possession of the committee. A committee member need not have voted with the prevailing side in order to move reconsideration.

(13) Any legislation requested by a committee requires three-fourths of all members of the committee to vote in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting or introduction of legislation. Votes requesting drafting and introduction of committee legislation may be taken jointly or separately.

(14) The chairman shall decide points of order.

(15) The privileges of committee members include the following:

- (a) to participate freely in committee discussions and debate;
- (b) to offer motions;
- (c) to assert points of order and privilege;
- (d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chairman;
- (e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and
- (f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy if authorized pursuant to subsection (9), using a standard form or through the vice chairman or minority vice chairman.

(16) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of telephone or other electronic communication must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 3 of the House Rules.

(17) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or more related bills referred to it whenever legislation may be simplified by the consolidation.

(18) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any questions arise on committee procedure, the rules or practices of the House are applicable except as stated in the House Rules.

H30-60. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions. (1) Testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee. All persons, other than the sponsor, offering testimony shall register on the committee witness list.

(2) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee hearing a bill or resolution must be given a reasonable opportunity to do so, orally or in writing. Written testimony may not be required of any witness, but all witnesses must be encouraged to submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record.

(3) The chairman may order the committee room cleared of visitors if there is disorderly conduct. During committee meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chairman. Restrictions on time available for testimony may be announced.

(4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed the maximum posted by the State Fire Marshal. The chairman shall maintain that limit.

(5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras, television, radio, or any form of telecommunication equipment is allowed, but the chairman may designate the areas of the hearing room from which the equipment must be operated. Cell phone use is allowed only at the discretion of the chairman.



CHAPTER 4

Legislation

H40-10. Introduction deadlines. If a representative accepts drafted legislation from the Legislative Services Division after the deadline for preintroduction, the representative may not introduce that legislation after 2 legislative days from the time the bill was accepted from the Legislative Services Division.

H40-20. House resolutions. (1) A House resolution is used to adopt or amend House rules, make recommendations on the districting and apportionment plan (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 14), express the sentiment of the House, or assist House operations.

(2) As to drafting, introduction, and referral, a House resolution is treated as a bill. A House resolution may be requested and introduced at any time. Final passage of a House resolution is determined by the Committee of the Whole report. A House resolution does not progress to third reading.

(3) The Chief Clerk shall transmit a copy of each passed House resolution to the Senate and the Secretary of State.

H40-30. Cosponsors. (1) Prior 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.

(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. 11.

H40-40. Introduction — receipt — messages from Senate and elected officials. (1) During a session, proposed House legislation may be introduced in the House by submitting it, endorsed with the signature of a representative as chief sponsor, to the Chief Clerk for introduction. Except for the first 15 bill numbers that may be reserved for preintroduced legislation, in each session of the Legislature, the proposed legislation must be numbered consecutively by type in the order of receipt. Submission and numbering of properly endorsed legislation constitutes introduction.

(2) Preintroduction of legislation prior to a session under provisions of the joint rules constitutes introduction in the House.

(3) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation or other matters transmitted from the Senate for consideration by the House constitutes introduction of the Senate legislation in the House or receipt by the House for purposes of applying time limits contained in the House rules. All legislation may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum as provided in H40-50.

(4) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of messages from the Senate or other elected officials constitutes receipt by the House for purposes of any applicable time limit. Senate legislation or messages received from the Senate or elected officials are subject to all other rules.

H40-50. First reading — receipt of Senate legislation. Legislation properly introduced or received in the House must be announced across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or motion is in order except that a representative may question adherence to rules. Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation transmitted from the Senate commences the time limit for consideration of the legislation. All legislation received by the House may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum.

H40-60. One reading per day — exception. Except on the final legislative day, legislation may receive no more than one reading per legislative day. On the final legislative day, legislation may receive more than one reading.

H40-70. Referral. (1) The Speaker shall refer to a House committee, joint select committee, or joint special committee all properly introduced House legislation and transmitted Senate legislation in conformity to the committee jurisdiction.

(2) Legislation may not receive final passage and approval unless it has been referred to a House committee, joint select committee, or joint special committee.



H40-80. Rereferral — Appropriations Committee rereferral — normal progression. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), legislation that is in the possession of the House and that has not been finally disposed of may be rereferred to a House committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

(2) (a) Legislation that is in the possession of the House and that has been reported from a committee with a do pass or be concurred in recommendation may be rereferred to a House committee by a majority vote.

(b) (i) With the consent of the majority leader, the minority leader, and the bill sponsor, legislation that has passed second reading in the Committee of the Whole and that has been rereferred to the Appropriations Committee pursuant to H40-80(2)(a) and is reported from committee without amendments may be placed on third reading.

(ii) Prior to being placed on third reading, legislation rereferred pursuant to H40-80(2)(b)(i) must be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as having been passed on second reading and rereferred to the House Appropriations Committee and reported from the committee without amendments.

(3) The normal progress of legislation through the House consists of the following steps in the order listed: introduction; referral to a standing or select committee; a report from the committee; second reading; and third reading.

H40-90. Legislation withdrawn from committee. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), legislation may be withdrawn from a House committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

(2) For the 2015 Session, the majority party leadership and the minority party leadership may each make up to six separate requests to withdraw a bill from a House committee, and these requests require only a simple majority of those present and voting to withdraw a bill from a House committee.

H40-100. Standing committee reports — requirement for rejection of adverse committee report. (1) A House standing committee recommendation of “do pass” or “be concurred in” must be announced across the rostrum and, if there is no objection to form, is considered adopted.

(2) A recommendation of “do not pass” or “be not concurred in” must be announced across the rostrum and, on the following legislative day, may be debated and adopted or rejected on Order of Business No. 2. A motion to reject an adverse committee report must be approved by not less than three-fifths of the members voting. Failure to adopt a motion to reject an adverse committee report constitutes adoption of the report.

(3) If the House rejects an adverse committee report, the bill progresses to second reading, as scheduled by the Speaker, with any amendments recommended by the committee.

H40-110. Consent calendar procedure. (1) Noncontroversial bills and simple and joint resolutions may be recommended for the consent calendar by a standing committee and processed according to the following provisions:

(a) To be eligible for the consent calendar, the legislation must receive a unanimous vote by the members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended). In addition, a motion must be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in the committee report. Appropriation or revenue bills may not be recommended for the consent calendar.

(b) The legislation must then be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as a “consent calendar” item.

(2) Other legislation may be placed on the consent calendar by agreement between the Speaker and the minority leader following a positive recommendation by a standing committee. The legislation must be sent to be processed as a second reading version but must be specifically announced and posted as a “consent calendar” item.

(3) Legislation must be posted immediately (as soon as it is received appropriately printed) on the consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of



Business No. 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the presiding officer shall announce consideration of the consent calendar and allow “reasonable time” for questions and answers upon request. No debate is allowed.

(4) If any one representative submits a written objection to the placement of legislation on the consent calendar, the legislation must be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading board.

(5) Consent calendar legislation will be considered on Order of Business No. 8, third reading of bills, following the regular third reading agenda, as separately noted on the agenda.

(6) Legislation on the consent calendar must be considered individually with the roll call vote spread on the journal as the final vote in the House.

(7) Legislation passed on the consent calendar must then be transmitted to the Senate. Legislation must be appropriately printed prior to transmittal.

H40-120. Legislation requiring other than a majority vote. Legislation that requires other than a majority vote for final passage needs only a majority vote for any action that is taken prior to third reading and that normally requires a majority vote.

H40-130. Amending House second and third reading agendas — vote requirements. (1) A majority of representatives present may rearrange or remove legislation from either the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day.

(2) Legislation may be added to the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day on a motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

H40-140. Second reading — timing — obverse vote on failed motion — status of amendments — rejection of report — segregation. (1) Legislation returned or withdrawn from committee by motion must be placed on second reading prior to the transmittal deadlines provided for in Joint Rule 40-200 that are applicable to each piece of legislation.

(2) The House shall form itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider business on second reading. The Committee of the Whole may debate legislation, attach amendments, and recommend approval or disapproval of legislation.

(3) Except on the final legislative day, at least 1 legislative day must elapse between the time legislation is reported from committee and the time it is considered on second reading.

(4) If a motion to recommend that a bill “do pass” or “be concurred in” fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill “do not pass” or “be not concurred in”, is considered to have passed. If a motion to recommend that a bill “do not pass” or “be not concurred in” fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill “do pass” or “be concurred in”, is considered to have passed.

(5) An amendment attached to legislation by the Committee of the Whole remains unless removed by further legislative action.

(6) When the Committee of the Whole reports to the House, the House shall adopt or reject the Committee of the Whole report. If the House rejects the Committee of the Whole report, the legislation remains on second reading, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, unless the House orders otherwise.

(7) A representative may move to segregate legislation from the Committee of the Whole report before the report is adopted. Segregated legislation, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, must be placed on second reading unless the House orders otherwise. Amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole on segregated legislation remain adopted unless reconsidered pursuant to H50-170 or unless the legislation is rereferred to a committee.

H40-150. Amendments in the Committee of the Whole — timing — official records. (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments must be prepared by the Legislative Services Division and checked by the House amendments coordinator for format, style, clarity, consistency, and other factors, in accordance with the most recent Bill Drafting Manual published by the Legislative Services Division,



before the amendment may be accepted at the rostrum. The amendment form must include the date and time the amendment is submitted for that check.

(2) An amendment submitted to the rostrum for consideration by the Committee of the Whole must be marked as checked by the amendments coordinator and signed by a representative. Unless the majority leader, the minority leader, and sponsor agree, amendments must be printed and placed on the members' desks prior to consideration.

(3) An amendment may not be proposed until the sponsor has opened on a bill.

(4) A copy of every amendment rejected by the Committee of the Whole must be kept as part of the official records.

(5) An amendment may not change the original purpose of the bill.

H40-160. Motions in the Committee of the Whole — quorum required. (1) When the House resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole, the only motions in order are to:

- (a) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (b) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence (Senate amendments to House legislation);
- (c) amend;
- (d) reconsider as provided in H50-170;
- (e) pass consideration;
- (f) call for cloture;
- (g) change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda; and
- (h) rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again.

(2) Subsections (1)(d) through (1)(f) and (1)(h) are nondebatable but may be amended. Once a motion under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) is made, a contrary motion is not in order.

(3) The motions listed in subsection (1) may be made in descending order as listed.

(4) If a quorum of representatives is not present during second reading, the Committee of the Whole may not conduct business on legislation and a motion for a call of the House without a quorum is in order.

H40-170. Limits on debate in the Committee of the Whole. (1) Except as provided in H40-180, a representative may not speak more than once on the motion and may speak for no more than 5 minutes. The representative who makes the motion may speak a second time for 5 minutes in order to close.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), after at least two proponents and two opponents have spoken on a question and 30 minutes have elapsed from the point in time that the sponsor's opening remarks on the motion end and debate on the motion begins, a motion to call for cloture is in order.

(b) (i) The 30-minute tolling requirement for a cloture motion made pursuant to subsection (2)(a) does not include time spent on floor debate of a substitute motion to amend the original question.

(ii) Each substitute motion to amend the original question is subject to a cloture motion and the cloture requirements provided for in this rule.

(iii) Once a substitute motion to amend is dispensed with and there are no other substitute motions to amend, the 30-minute tolling requirement for the original question pursuant to subsection (2)(a) resumes from the point in time in which the first substitute motion to amend was made.

(c) Approval by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting is required to sustain a motion for cloture. Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

(3) By previous agreement of the majority leader and the minority leader:

- (a) a lead proponent and a lead opponent may be granted additional time to speak on a bill;



(b) a bill or resolution may be allocated a predetermined amount of time for debate and number of speakers.

H40-180. Special provisions for debate on the general appropriations bill — sections — amendments. (1) The Appropriations Committee chairman, in presenting the bill, is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(2) Each appropriations subcommittee chairman shall fully present the chairman's portion of the bill. A subcommittee chairman is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(3) After the presentation by the subcommittee chairman, the respective section of the bill is open for debate, questions, and amendments. A proposed amendment to the general appropriations act may not be divided.

(4) An amendment that affects more than one section of the bill must be offered when the first section affected is considered.

(5) Following completion of the debate on each section, that section is closed and may not be reopened except by majority vote.

(6) If a member moves to reopen a section for amendment, only the amendment of that member may be entertained. Another member wishing to amend the same section shall make a separate motion to reopen the section.

(7) Debate on the motion to reopen a section is limited to the question of reopening the section. The amendment itself may not be debated at that time. This limitation does not prohibit the member from explaining the amendment to be considered.

H40-190. Engrossing. (1) After legislation is passed on second reading, it must be engrossed within 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for engrossing.

(2) When the legislation that has passed second reading, as amended, has been correctly engrossed, it must be placed on third reading on the following legislative day. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent to printing and must be placed on third reading on the legislative day after receipt. On the final legislative day, the correctly engrossed legislation may be placed on third reading on the same legislative day. For the purposes of this rule, "engrossing" means placing amendments in a bill. (See Joint Rule 40-150.)

H40-200. Third reading. (1) All bills, joint resolutions, and Senate amendments to House bills and joint resolutions passing second reading must be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

(2) Legislation on third reading may not be amended or debated.

(3) The Speaker shall state the question on legislation on third reading. If a majority of the representatives voting does not approve the legislation, it fails to pass third reading.

H40-210. Senate legislation in the House. Senate legislation properly transmitted to the House must be treated as House legislation.

H40-220. Senate amendments to House legislation. (1) When the Senate has properly returned House legislation with Senate amendments, the House shall announce the amendments on Order of Business No. 4, and the Speaker shall place them on second reading for debate. The Speaker may rerefer House legislation with Senate amendments to a committee for a hearing if the Senate amendments constitute a significant change in the House legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration of the Senate amendments.

(2) If the House accepts Senate amendments, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the House rejects the Senate amendments, the House may request the Senate to recede from its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the Senate to appoint a like committee.

H40-230. Conference committee reports. (1) When a House conference committee files a report, the report must be announced under Order of Business No. 3.



(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the conference committee report on second reading on any legislative day. The House may reconsider its action in rejecting a conference committee report under rules for reconsideration, H50-160.

(3) If both the House and the Senate adopt the same conference committee report on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the House, following approval of the conference committee report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(4) If the House rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the Speaker or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

(5) A House conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any Senate conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the House.

H40-240. Enrolling. (1) When House legislation has passed both houses, it must be enrolled within 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for enrolling.

(2) The chief sponsor of the legislation shall examine the enrolled legislation and, if it has no enrolling errors, shall, within 1 legislative day, certify the legislation as correctly enrolled.

(3) The correctly enrolled legislation must be delivered to the Speaker, who shall sign the legislation.

(4) After the legislation has been reported correctly enrolled but before it is signed, any representative may examine the legislation. (See Joint Rule 40-160.)

H40-250. Governor's amendments. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended amendments, the House shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 5.

(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the House and the Senate accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

H40-260. Governor's veto. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the House shall announce the veto under Order of Business No. 5.

(2) On any legislative day, a representative may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business No. 9.



CHAPTER 5

Floor Actions

H50-10. Attendance — excuse — call of the House. (1) A representative, unless excused, is required to be present at every sitting of the House.

(2) A representative may request in writing to be excused for a specified cause by the representative's party leader. This excused absence is not a leave with cause from a call of the House.

H50-20. Quorum. (1) A quorum of the House is fifty-one representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10).

(2) Any representative may question the lack of a quorum at any time a vote is not being taken. The question is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is resolved by a roll call.

(3) The House may not conduct business without a quorum, except that representatives present may convene, compel the attendance of absent representatives, or adjourn.

H50-30. Call of the House without a quorum. (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the representatives present may compel the attendance of absent representatives through a call of the House without a quorum. The motion for the call is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time it has been established that a quorum is not present.

(2) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or to remove the call.

(3) When a quorum has been achieved under the call, the call is automatically lifted. The call may also be lifted by adjournment or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

H50-50. Leave with cause during call of the House. (1) During a call of the House, a representative with an overriding medical or personal reason may request a leave with cause.

(2) If the representative is present at the time of the call, the Speaker may approve a request for a leave with cause.

(3) If the representative is not present at the time of the call, two-thirds of the representatives present and voting may approve a request for leave with cause.

(4) During a call of the House, a representative on leave with cause may not cast an absentee vote.

H50-60. Opening and order of business. The opening of each legislative day must include an invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and roll call. Following the opening, the order of business of the House is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Senate;
- (5) messages from the Governor;
- (6) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (7) second reading of bills;
- (8) third reading of bills;
- (9) motions;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.



H50-70. Motions. (1) Any representative may propose a motion allowed by the rules for the order of business under which the motion is offered for the consideration of the House. Unless otherwise specified in rule or law, a majority of representatives voting is necessary and sufficient to decide a motion.

(2) Seconds to motions on the House floor are not required.

(3) Absentee votes are not allowed on votes that are specified as “representatives present and voting”.

(4) The majority leader shall make routine procedural motions required to conduct the business of the House.

H50-80. Limits on debate of debatable motions. (1) Except for the representative who places a debatable motion before the body, no representative may speak more than once on the question unless a unanimous House consents. The representative who places the motion may close.

(2) No representative may speak for more than 10 minutes on the same question, except that a representative may have 5 minutes to close.

H50-90. Nondebatable motions. (1) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, usually under the administration of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

(2) The following motions are nondebatable:

(a) to adjourn pursuant to H50-250;

(b) for a call of the House;

(c) to recess or rise;

(d) for parliamentary inquiry;

(e) to table or take from the table;

(f) to call for the previous question or cloture;

(g) to amend a nondebatable motion;

(h) to divide a question;

(i) to suspend the rules;

(j) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature;

(k) to appeal a call to order;

(l) to question the lack of a quorum pursuant to H50-20; and

(m) to change a vote pursuant to H50-210.

H50-100. Questions. A representative may, through the presiding officer, ask questions of another representative during a floor session. There is no limit on questions and answers, except as provided in H20-50.

H50-110. Amending motions — limitations. (1) A representative may move to amend the specific provisions of a motion without changing its substance.

(2) No more than one motion to amend a motion is in order at any one time.

(3) A motion for a call of the House, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

H50-120. Substitute motions. (1) When a question is before the House, no substitute motion may be made except the following, which have precedence in the order listed:

(a) to adjourn (nondebatable H50-90 and H50-250);

(b) for a call of the House (nondebatable H50-90);

(c) to recess or rise (nondebatable H50-90);



- (d) for a question of privilege;
- (e) to table (nondebatable H50-90);
- (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
- (h) to refer to a committee; and
- (i) to propose amendments.

(2) Nothing in this section allows a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order of business.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), no more than one substitute motion is in order at any one time.

(b) A motion for cloture is in order on a substitute motion to amend.

H50-130. Withdrawing motions. A representative who proposes a motion may withdraw it before it is voted on or amended.

H50-140. Dividing a question. Except as provided in H40-180(3), a representative may request to divide a question as a matter of right if it includes two or more propositions so distinct that they can be separated and if at least one substantive question remains after one substantive question is removed. The request is nondebatable under H50-90. The presiding officer may rule that a question is nondivisible. The ruling of the chair may be appealed as provided in H50-160(14) or (16) and H70-50. For an appeal of a ruling of the presiding officer, the question for the house must be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be upheld?"

H50-150. Previous question — close. (1) If a majority of representatives present and voting adopts a motion for the previous question, debate is closed on the question and it must be brought to a vote. The Speaker may not entertain a motion to end debate unless at least one proponent and one opponent have spoken on the question.

(2) Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

H50-160. Questions requiring other than a majority vote. The following questions require the vote specified for each condition:

100 House Members

(1) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the tobacco settlement trust fund pursuant to Article XII, section 4, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(2) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal severance tax trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths);

(3) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue, as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution, for purposes other than therein described (three-fifths);

(4) a motion to approve a bill to authorize creation of state debt pursuant to Article VIII, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(5) a motion to appropriate the principal of the noxious weed management trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 6, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths);

(6) a motion to temporarily suspend a joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills pursuant to Joint Rule 60-10(2) (two-thirds).

Members Present and Voting

(1) a motion to override the Governor's veto pursuant to H40-260 and Article VI, section 10(3), of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(2) a motion to lift a call of the House pursuant to H50-30(3) (two-thirds);



- (3) a motion to rerefer a bill from one committee to another pursuant to H40-80(1) (three-fifths);
- (4) except as provided in H40-90(2), a motion to withdraw a bill from a committee pursuant to H40-90 (three-fifths);
- (5) a motion to add legislation to the second or third reading agenda on that day pursuant to H40-130(2) (three-fifths);
- (6) a motion to remove legislation from its normal progress through the House as provided under H40-80(3) and reassign it unless otherwise specifically provided by these rules, such as H40-80(2) (three-fifths);
- (7) a motion to change a vote pursuant to H50-210 (unanimous);
- (8) a motion to call for cloture pursuant to H40-170(2) (two-thirds);
- (9) a motion to approve a bill conferring immunity from suit as described in Article II, section 18, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);
- (10) a motion to amend rules pursuant to H70-10(2) or suspend rules pursuant to H70-30 (two-thirds);
- (11) a motion to overturn an adverse committee report pursuant to H40-100(2) (three-fifths);
- (12) a motion to record a vote pursuant to H50-200(2) (one representative);
- (13) a motion to record a vote in the journal (two representatives);
- (14) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer pursuant to H20-20(1) or H20-80(2) (three representatives);
- (15) a motion to speak more than once on a debatable motion pursuant to H50-80(1) (unanimous vote);
- (16) a motion to appeal the presiding officer's interpretation of the rules to the House Rules Committee pursuant to H70-50 (15 representatives).

Entire Legislature

(1) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution pursuant to Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature).

H50-170. Reconsideration — time restriction. (1) Any representative may, within 1 legislative day of a vote, move to reconsider the House vote on any matter still within the control of the House.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

(5) A member may be present for a vote by electronic means.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

H50-250. Adjournment sine die. Subject to Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, a representative may move that the House adjourn for the session. The motion is nondebatable and may be made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.



CHAPTER 6

Motions

H60-10. Proposal for consideration. (1) Every question presented to the House or a committee must be submitted as a definite proposition.

(2) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, under the authority of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

H60-20. Nondebatable motions. The following motions, in addition to any other motion specifically designated, must be decided without debate:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) for a call of the House;
- (3) to recess or rise;
- (4) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (5) to table or to take from the table;
- (6) to call for the previous question or for cloture;
- (7) to amend a nondebatable motion;
- (8) to divide a question;
- (9) to suspend the rules; and
- (10) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature.

H60-30. Motions allowed during debate. (1) When a question is under debate, only the following motions are in order. The motions have precedence in the following order:

- (a) to adjourn;
- (b) for a call of the House;
- (c) to recess or rise;
- (d) for a question of privilege;
- (e) to table or take from the table;
- (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
- (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
- (h) to refer or rerefer; and
- (i) to propose amendments.

(2) This section does not allow a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order of business.

(3) Only one substitute motion is in order at any time.

H60-40. Motions to adjourn or recess. (1) A motion to adjourn or recess is always in order, except:

- (a) when the House is voting on another motion;
- (b) when the previous question has been ordered and before the final vote;
- (c) when a member entitled to the floor has not yielded for that purpose; or
- (d) when business has not been transacted after the defeat of a motion to adjourn or recess.

(2) A motion to adjourn sine die pursuant to H50-250 is subject to Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution.



(3) The vote by which a motion to adjourn or recess is carried or fails is not subject to a motion to reconsider.

H60-50. Motion to table. (1) A motion to table, if carried, has the effect of postponing action on the proposition to which it was applied until superseded by a motion to take from the table.

(2) After a vote on a motion to table is carried or fails, the motion cannot be reconsidered.

(3) A motion to table is not in order after the previous question has been ordered.

H60-60. Motion to postpone. A motion to postpone to a day certain may be amended and is debatable within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion to postpone may not be debated.

H60-70. Motion to refer. When a motion is made to refer a subject to a standing committee or select committee, the question on the referral to a standing committee must be put first.

H60-80. Terms of debate on motion to refer or rerefer. (1) A motion to refer or rerefer is debatable within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion may not be debated.

(2) A motion to refer or rerefer with instructions is fully debatable.

H60-100. Moving the previous question after a motion to table. (1) If a motion to table is made directly to a main motion, a motion for the previous question is not in order.

(2) If an amendment to a main motion is pending and a motion to table is made, the previous question may be called on the main motion, the pending amendment, and the motion to table the amendment.

H60-110. Standard motions. The following are standard motions:

(1) moving House bills or resolutions on second reading, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that when this committee does rise and report after having under consideration House Bill ____, that it recommend the same (do pass)/(do pass as amended)/(do not pass)."

(2) moving Senate bills and Senate amendments to House bills, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that when this committee does rise and report after having under consideration Senate Bill __/Senate amendments to House Bill ____, that it recommend the same (be concurred in)/(be not concurred in)."

(3) Committee of the Whole floor amendments, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that House Bill __/Senate Bill __ be amended and request that the amendment be posted and deemed read."

(4) introducing visitors, "Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, I request that we be off the record and out of the journal."

(5) changing a vote, "Mister Speaker, I would like my vote changed on House Bill __/Senate Bill __ from (yes/no) to (yes/no). The question on the bill was () with a vote tally of ____ for and ____ against."

(6) question another representative, "Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, would Representative __ yield to a question?"



CHAPTER 7

Rules

H70-10. House rules — amendment — report timing. (1) The House may adopt, through a House resolution passed by a majority of its members, rules to govern its proceedings.

(2) After adoption of the House rules, two-thirds of the representatives voting must vote in favor of the question to amend the rules.

(3) The Speaker shall refer to the House Rules Committee all resolutions for House rules.

(4) The House Rules Committee shall report all resolutions for House rules within 1 legislative day of referral.

H70-20. Tenure of rules. Rules adopted by the House remain in effect until removed by House resolution or until a new House is elected and takes office.

H70-30. Suspension of rules. The House may suspend a House rule on a motion approved by not less than two-thirds of the members voting.

H70-40. Supplementary rules. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2010) governs House proceedings in all cases not covered by House rules.

H70-50. Interpreting rules — appeal. The Speaker shall interpret all questions on House rules, subject to appeal by any 15 representatives to the House Rules Committee. Unless the delay would cause legislation to fail to meet a scheduled deadline, the House Rules Committee may consider and report on the appeal on the next legislative day. The decision of the House Rules Committee may be appealed to the House by any representative.

H70-60. Joint rules superseded. A House rule, insofar as it relates to the internal proceedings of the House, supersedes a joint rule.



Appendix

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), legislation dealing with an enumerated subject must be referred to a standing committee as follows:

Agriculture: Agriculture; country of origin labeling for products; crops; crop insurance; farm subsidies; fuel produced from grain; grazing (other than state land leases); irrigation; livestock; poultry; and weed control.

Appropriations: Appropriations for the Legislature, general government, and bonding, including supplemental appropriations and the coal severance tax.

Business and Labor: Alcohol regulation other than taxation; associations; corporations; credit transactions; employment; financial institutions; gambling; insurance; labor unions; partnerships; private sector pensions and pension plans; professions and occupations other than the practice of law; salaries and wages; sales; secured transactions; securities regulation other than criminal provisions; sports other than hunting, fishing, and competition water sports; trade regulation; unemployment insurance; the Uniform Commercial Code; and workers' compensation.

Education: Higher education; home schools; K-12 education; religion in schools; school buildings and other structures; school libraries and university system libraries; school safety; school sports; school staff other than teachers; school transportation; students; teachers; and vocational education and training.

Ethics: Ethical standards applicable to members, officers, and employees of the House and ethical standards for lobbyists.

Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications: Energy generation and transmission; Indian reservations; international relations; interstate cooperation and compacts, except those relating to law enforcement and water compacts; relations with the federal government; relations with sovereign Indian tribes; telecommunications; and utilities other than municipal utilities.

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks: Fish; fishing; hunting; outdoor recreation; parks other than those owned by local governments; relations with federal and state governments concerning fish and wildlife; Virginia City and Nevada City; water sports; and wildlife.

Human Services: Developmentally disabled persons; disabled persons; health; health and disability insurance; housing; human services; mental illness or incapacity; retirement other than pensions and pension plans; senior citizens; tobacco regulation other than taxation; and welfare.

Judiciary: Abortion; arbitration and mediation; civil procedure; constitutional amendments; consumer protection; contracts; corrections; courts; criminal law; criminal procedure; discrimination; evidence; family law; fees imposed by or relating to the court system; guaranty; human rights; impeachment; indemnity; judicial system; landlord and tenant; law enforcement; liability and immunity from liability; minors; practice of law; privacy; property law; religion other than in schools; state law library; surety; torts; and trusts and estates.

Legislative Administration: Interim committees and matters related to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.

Local Government: Cities; consolidated governments; counties; libraries and parks owned or operated by local governments; local development; local government finance and revenue; local government officers and employees, local planning; special districts and other political subdivisions, except school districts; towns; and zoning.

Natural Resources: Board of Land Commissioners; dams, except for electrical generation; emission standards; environmental protection; extractive activities; fires and fire protection, except for a local government fire department; forests and forestry; hazardous waste; mines and mining; natural gas; natural resources; oil; pollution; solid waste; state land, except state parks; water and water rights; water bodies and water courses; and water compacts.

Rules: House rules; joint rules; legislative procedure; jurisdictions of committees; and rules of decorum.



State Administration: Administrative rules; arts and antiquities; ballots; elections; initiative and referendum procedures; military affairs; public contracts and procurement; public employee retirement systems; state buildings; state employees; state employee benefits; state equipment and property, except state lands and state parks; state government generally; state-owned libraries other than the state law library; veterans; and voting.

Taxation: Taxes other than fuel taxes.

Transportation: Fuel taxes; highways; railroads; roads; traffic regulation; transportation generally; vehicles; and vehicle safety.

(2) If a select committee is created to address a specific subject, then bills relating to that subject must be assigned to the select committee.

(3) (a) If legislation deals with more than one subject and the subjects are assigned to more than one committee, the bill must be assigned to a class one committee before a class two committee and to a class two committee before a class three committee. If there is a conflict of subjects between the same class of committees, then the bill must be assigned by the Speaker.

(b) If a bill contains substantive provisions dealing with policy and an appropriation, the bill must be referred to the committee with jurisdiction over the subject addressed in the policy provisions. If the bill is reported from the committee to which it was assigned, the Speaker may rerefer the bill to the Appropriations Committee. The referral must be announced to the House. The rereferral does not require action or approval by the House, but may be overturned by a majority vote.

(4) If a committee chair upon consultation with the vice chair determines that the committee cannot effectively process all bills assigned to the committee because of time limitations, the chair shall, in writing, request the Speaker to reassign specific bills. The Speaker shall reassign the bills to an appropriate committee. The reassignments must be announced to the House. The reassignments do not require action or approval by the House, but may be overturned by a three-fifths vote.



INDEX TO RULES



A

Adjournment, 10-40

- call of the house lifted by, H50-30
- consent of other chamber required, when 10-40, 20-10
- day to day, S50-10
- floor admittance before or after, S20-50, H20-30
- legislative day, for, H50-240
- lobbying limitations, H20-30
- motion to adjourn, See **Motions**
- quorum, without, H50-20
- sine die, H50-250, H60-40

Administrative Rules—legislation requesting or advising adoption, amendment, or repeal, 40-50, 40-60
transmittal deadline, 40-50, 40-200

Agenda, See also **Calendar**; **Consent calendar**

- change order of placement on, motion to, S50-160, H40-160
- second and third readings, S40-60, H10-20, H40-190
 - add legislation, motion to, H40-130, H50-160
 - amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130
 - consent calendar legislation, H40-110

Agriculture, Committee on, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation—Committee on, 30-70, S30-20

Aides, See **Legislative aides**

Amendments

- agendas, H10-20, H40-130
- bill drafting manual, conformance, 10-120, H40-150
- clerical errors, correction, 10-120
- Committee of the Whole, 40-150, S50-150, H40-140, H40-150, H60-110
 - consideration, S50-140, H40-150
 - governor's recommendations for amendments, applicability, 40-230
 - preparation of, S50-150, H40-150
- committees, by, 40-120, 40-140, 40-150, S30-70, H30-50, H40-100
- conference committees, 30-30, 40-170, H40-220
- constitutional, See **Constitution, Montana—amendments; Constitution, United States—amendments**
- engrossed bills, inclusion, 40-150
- “engrossing” defined, 10-120, H40-190
- existing statutes, 10-130, 40-80, 40-160
- fiscal note requirements, 40-100
- general appropriations bill, H40-180
- governor's recommendations for, 40-230, S50-240, H40-250
- journal entry, S10-170, S50-150
- motions for, See **Motions**
- preparation of, S50-150, H40-150
- previous question, call for—effect, S50-80
- prohibited when, 40-170, S40-40, H50-20
- purpose of bill, change by—prohibited, 40-90
- question the lack of quorum, prohibited, H50-20
- recede from, second house requested to, H40-220
- recording of text of proposed amendments, 10-150
- rejection, 40-170, S50-150, S50-240, H40-150, H40-220, H40-250
- rules
 - house, 60-10, H40-20, H50-160, H70-10
 - joint, 40-60, 60-10
 - senate, 60-10, S40-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A
- second house, by, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-200, H40-220, H60-110
- second reading
 - incorporation into printed copy, 40-140
 - second house amendments, 40-150, S50-230
- segregated legislation, H40-140
- striking out all material following enacting clause, amendment by, 40-120
- striking out and inserting words, amendment by, 10-130
 - enrolling procedure, 40-160
 - errors, correction, 10-120
- substitute bills as, 40-120
- third reading of bills
 - amendments prohibited, S40-40, H40-200
 - second house amendments, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-200, H40-220
- transmittal deadline, 40-200
- votes on, 40-170, S50-150, H40-220

Amendments coordinator, responsibilities, 10-120, H40-150



Appeals

- call of member to order, S20-20, H20-80, H50-90
- committee chair's decisions on questions or order, H30-20
- dilatory motions or questions, decision concerning, H20-50
- order and privilege, questions of, S20-10, H20-20
- parliamentary inquiries, responses to—no appeal, H20-20
- presiding officers
 - decision of, S50-60
 - rules, interpretation of, H50-160
 - ruling by, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- previous question, call for—effect, S50-80
- recognition of member to speak—decision concerning, no appeal, H20-10, H20-20
- rules
 - committee on—decisions by, H70-50
 - interpretation of, H50-160, H70-50
 - violation of, S20-20
- ruling on dividing a question, H50-140

Appropriation bills

- amendments
 - general appropriations bill, to, H40-180
 - transmittal deadline, 40-200
- committee consideration of general, 30-50
- consent calendar, exception, H40-110
- fiscal notes, nonapplicability, 40-100
- fund transfers not, 40-200
- general appropriation act, bills implementing provisions
 - drafting request deadline, 40-50
 - transmittal deadline, 40-200
- general appropriations act, reduction in specific appropriation for bill reducing revenue, 40-180
- general appropriations bill, consideration, 30-50
 - debate, questions, and amendment, H40-180
- introduction, 40-20, 40-50
 - senate, prohibited in, S40-10
- line item veto, 40-210
- origin, house of, 40-20
- policy and appropriation, bills dealing with—referral and rereferral, H40-80, H(Appendix)
- transmittal deadline, 40-200

Appropriation of public funds for public purpose, statutes for—effective date, 40-30**Appropriation required for bills requesting interim studies, 40-65****Appropriations, Committee on, H30-10, H(Appendix)**

- appropriation bills, consideration, 30-50
- chair, 30-50, H40-180
 - legislature, appropriation bills for operation—introduction, 40-20
- general appropriations bill, debate—special provisions, H40-180
- interim committees, selection, 30-70
- policy and appropriation, bills dealing with—referral and rereferral, H40-80, H(Appendix)
- rereferral to, H40-80
- subcommittees, 30-50, H30-10, H40-180

Arrest of members, S50-220**Attendance, S10-100, S10-120, H10-60, H10-80**

- of members compelled, S50-10, S50-220, H10-60, H10-80, H50-10—H50-30

B**Backed bills, 10-130, 40-40**

Bills, See specific subject entries in this index

Bill status system, S40-20**Blue-colored bills, 40-150****Budget Director, fiscal note requirements, 40-100****Budgets, S10-80, H(Appendix)****Business**

- committee, quorum may transact, S30-40, H30-30
- obstruction, dilatory motions or questions, H20-50
- order of, See **Order of business**
- pass business in Committee of the Whole, S50-60
- pass to a new order of, S50-20
- quorum, without—conduct prohibited, H40-160, H50-20
- revert to a new order of, S50-20
 - reports, signing of, S30-50



Business (continued)
 suspended during
 call of the house, H50-30
 call of the senate, S50-220
 unfinished, S50-20, H50-60
Business and Labor, Committee on, H30-10, H(Appendix)
Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs—Committee on, 30-70, S30-20
“By Request Of” line, 40-40, H40-40

C

Calendar, See also **Agenda**; **Consent calendar**
 approval, S10-50, S10-140
 communications, inclusion, S20-60
 conference committee reports, S50-130
 development of, S10-90, H10-50
 third reading, 40-150, H40-190
Called to order, members, S20-20, H20-80, H50-90
Call of the House
 committee meetings during house session, members subject to, H30-40
 dilatory motions, nonapplicability, H20-50
 excused absence not leave with cause when, H50-10
 leave with cause, H50-50
 lifted when, H50-30
 motions, See **Motions**
 motion to lift, H50-160
 without quorum, H40-160, H50-30
 remove, motion to, H50-30
 sergeant-at-arms, duty, H10-110
 table, motion to—prohibited, H50-190
Call of the Senate, S50-220
 committee meetings during senate session, members subject to, S30-60
 committee reports not allowed, S50-120
 lift, motion to, S-Appendix A
 motions, See **Motions**
 previous question ordered, call not in order, S50-80
 quorum
 order for, S50-220
 with, S-Appendix A
 remove the call, motion to, S50-220
Cancelled bills—deadline missed, 40-50
Caucuses, S10-90—S10-120, H10-50—H10-80
 nomination and election of officers, S10-70, S30-20, H10-10
 presiding officer or principal leader of, S10-90, S10-110, H10-50, H10-70
Cell phone use, S30-80, H30-60
Censure, 10-85, S20-20, H20-80, See also **Discipline of**
Chaplains, S50-20, H10-90, H50-60
Chief Clerk of the House, H10-100
 appointment of, H10-90
 clerical corrections, notification and objection, 10-120
 committees, responsibilities, H10-90, H10-100, H30-20
 harassment violations reported to, 10-85
 introduction, legislation submitted for, 40-40, H40-30—H40-50
 journal, responsibilities, H10-100, H10-140
 messages from other house or elected officials, H40-40
 publication of committee appointments, responsible for, H30-10
 resolutions, responsibilities, 40-60, H10-100, H40-20
 rules, amendments to—responsibility, 60-10
 rules, committee on—minutes and reports, responsibility, 60-10
 secretaries, supervision, H10-90
 sergeant-at-arms, direction, H10-110
 sponsor forms filed with, H40-30
 transmittal of legislation or other matters, receipt for, 40-190, H40-40, H40-50
 votes, recording, H50-200
Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee, 30-70
Clerk of the Supreme Court, signed copies of enrolled bills filed with, 40-160
Coal severance tax trust fund, motion to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160
Code Commissioner bills, 40-40



Color of paper indicates status of bill, 40-140, 40-150, See also specific color

Committee of the Whole, See also **Second reading of bills**

- amendments to legislation, 10-150, 40-150, S50-150, H40-140, H40-150, H60-110
- consideration, S50-140, H40-150
 - governor's recommendations for, applicability, 40-230
 - preparation of, S50-150, H40-150
- chair
 - appointment, S50-140
 - order during proceedings, S10-150
 - voting methods, S50-180
- conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230
- debate, limitations on, H40-170, H40-180
- disorder, reporting, S50-170
- formation and functions, S50-140, H40-140
- motions, See **Motions**
- pass business, motion to, S50-60
- quorum
 - failure to have, H40-160
 - what constitutes, S50-10
- recommendations by, H40-140
- reconsider action, S30-140, H50-170
- reports, 40-150, S50-120, S50-140, H40-20, H40-140
- resolutions, house—final passage, determination, H40-20
- second reading, See **Second reading of bills**
- segregated legislation, H40-140
- standing committee, report of bills to, S30-60
- subcommittees, appointment prohibited, S50-170
- votes, recording and public record, 10-150, H10-150

Committees, Committee on—composition and appointment of committees, S30-10

Committees, generally, 30-10—30-60, S30-10—S30-160, H30-10—H30-60, See also specific committee

- absentee or proxy votes, authorization, S30-70, S30-100, H30-50
- amendments to legislation, by, 40-120, 40-140, 40-150, S30-70, H30-50, H40-100
- appointments to, S30-10
- chair
 - business reports, signing of, S30-50
 - cell phone use at discretion of, S30-80, H30-60
 - duties, S30-20, S30-50—S30-80, H30-20, H30-40—H30-60
 - governor's nominations for appointments, S70-20
 - hearing notices, dissemination, S30-60
 - introduction of committee legislation, S30-150
 - joint committees, 30-10, 30-50
 - rereferral of bills, request for—when, H(Appendix)
 - secretaries of committees, authority, S10-130, H10-90
 - sponsor of bill, principal, 10-120
- classification of, S30-30, H30-10
- class of committee, conflict of subjects between, H(Appendix)
- consideration, required, S30-60
- consolidation of bills, S30-70, H30-50
- disposal or withdrawal of bill in, S30-70, H30-50, H40-90
- drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150, H30-50
- executive action, S30-50, S30-60
- fiscal note requirements, 40-100
- general appropriation act provisions, bills to implement, 40-50
- governor's nominations for appointments, S70-20, S70-30
- harassment violations reported to statutory committees, 10-85
- hearings, See **Hearings**
- indefinitely postponing measures, S50-110
- interim committees, 30-70, 40-40
- introduction of legislation by, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150, H30-50
- joint committees
 - appointments to, S30-10
 - appropriation bills, consideration, 30-50
 - bills heard in, referral, S30-60
 - chair of committee, 30-10, 30-50
 - executive action required on bills heard in, S30-60
 - referral of bills to, H40-70
 - requests for legislation, 40-40, 40-130, 40-140
 - voting in, 30-20
- majority leader of house as ex officio nonvoting member, H30-30
- majority leader of senate as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40



Committees, generally (continued)

- meetings, S30-60, H30-10, H30-20, H30-40, H30-50
 - announcement, order of business, S50-20, H50-60
 - business reports reflecting action taken, S30-50
 - notice requirements, S30-60, H30-40
 - quorum, S30-40, H30-30
 - schedules, S30-20, H30-10
 - membership, change—notice, S30-10
 - minority leader of house as ex officio nonvoting member, H30-30
 - minority leader of senate as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40
 - minority vice chair, H30-10
 - minutes and exhibits, S10-130, S30-50, S30-60, H30-20, H30-40
 - chief clerk of the house, duties, H10-100
 - contents, S30-60, S30-70, H30-40
 - votes, absentee or proxy—authorization noted, S30-100, H30-50
 - votes, entry, 10-150
 - motions offered in, S30-70, H30-50
 - pairing of votes, S50-210
 - presiding officer, chair as, S30-50
 - privileges of committee members, S30-70, H30-50
 - procedures, S30-70, H30-50
 - questions, submission as definite proposition, H60-10
 - quorum, S30-40, H30-30
 - recommendation requirements, S30-70, H30-50
 - reconsideration of previous action, S30-70, S30-140, H30-50
 - not allowed when, S50-120
 - records, S30-80, H30-60
 - referral of legislation to committee
 - consent to take up, H30-50
 - first reading, prior to, S40-20, H40-40, H40-50
 - governor's nominations for appointment, S70-20
 - motion for, S50-50, H50-120, H60-30, H60-70
 - preintroduced legislation, S40-20
 - president of the senate, by, S10-50, S50-230
 - progression through house, H40-80
 - requesting committee, to, S30-150
 - required, S30-60, H40-70, H(Appendix)
 - rereferral, S30-60, S40-60, S50-190, H30-50, H40-80, H(Appendix)
 - resolutions, house, H40-20
 - second house, by, 40-190, S50-230, H40-40, H40-50, H40-70
 - speaker of the house, by, H(Appendix)
 - sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
 - reports, See **Reports of committees**
 - rerefer, motion to, H40-80, H50-160, H60-30
 - rereferral of legislation to, S30-60, S40-60, S50-190, H30-50, H40-80, H40-140, H40-220, H(Appendix)
 - revenue bills, drafting request deadline, 40-50
 - rooms, S30-50, S30-80, H30-60
 - scheduling of, meetings, S30-20, H30-10
 - secretaries, S10-130, S30-80, H10-90
 - select committees, See **Select committees**
 - speaker of the house as ex officio, nonvoting member, H30-30
 - special committees, 40-40, 40-130, 40-140, S30-10, H40-70
 - sponsors of bills, committees as, S30-150
 - standing committees, See **Standing committees**
 - subcommittees, See **Subcommittees**
 - substitute bills, recommendation, 40-120
 - supervision of work, S30-50
 - tabling of measures, 10-140, S30-70, S50-110, H30-50
 - testimony, S30-50—S30-80, H20-60, H30-40, H30-60
 - votes
 - absentee or proxy, authorization, S30-70, S30-100, H30-50
 - members, privilege, S30-70, H30-50
 - pairing of, prohibited when, S30-100
 - recording and public record, 10-150, S30-70, H10-150, H30-50
 - rereferrals, overturning—requirements, H(Appendix)
 - requests for drafting or introduction of legislation, requirement, S30-150, H30-50
 - tie votes, H30-50
 - withdraw legislation from, S40-60, H30-50
 - motion to, H40-90, H50-160
 - placement on second reading, H40-140
 - witness must register, S30-80, H30-60
- Communications and petitions, S20-60**
- order of business, S50-20, H50-60



Compensation

preparation and certification of payroll, 10-100
 signing of payrolls, 10-100, S10-50, H10-20
 unexcused absence, effect, S50-220

Conduct of members

Committee of the Whole, discipline prohibited, S50-170
 conflict of interest, disclosure, 10-60
 questions of order and privilege, H20-20
 questions of privilege, S20-30
 speaker of the house, authority, H10-20

Conference committees, 30-30

appointment, 30-30, S30-10, S50-230, H40-220
 dissolving, S50-130, H40-230
 free conference committees, 30-30, 40-230
 hearings, notice requirements, S30-60
 reports, 30-30, 30-40, S50-130, H40-230
 requests for, 30-30, 40-170, 40-230, S50-230, H40-220
 scope of, 30-30
 voting in, 30-20

Conflict of interest, disclosure, 10-60, H50-200**Consent calendar, H40-110**

committee recommendation for placement on, H30-50, H40-110

Consent for adjournment or recess, 20-10**Consolidation of bills, S30-70, H30-50****Constitution, Montana—amendments**

governor, veto or signature not required, 40-10, 40-210
 motion to approve bill proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 proposal, 40-10
 tabling by committee, 10-140
 vote requirements, 10-140, S50-110

Constitution, United States—amendments

governor's signature not required, 40-210
 resolutions to ratify or propose, 40-60

Copies of bills, number required

enrolling, 40-160
 introduced bills, S40-20, H40-40

Corrections

clerical, 10-120, 40-160
 journal errors, 10-160, S10-170, H10-140
 reference bills, 30-40
 vote errors caused by malfunction of voting system, S50-200, H50-210

Cosponsors, 40-40, S30-70, S40-30, H30-50, H40-30, See also Sponsors, bill**D****Day, legislative, See Legislative day****Deadlines, See also Time**

appropriation act, general—bills implementing provisions
 drafting requests, 40-50
 transmittal, 40-200
 appropriation bills and bills implementing provisions of general appropriation bills, transmittal, 40-200
 clerical corrections, filing of objections, 10-120
 committee legislation, drafting requests, 40-50
 drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50
 engrossing, 10-120, H40-190
 enrolling, 10-120, H40-240
 fiscal notes, 40-100
 sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
 governor
 enrolled bills, transmittal to, 40-160
 signing or veto of bills, 40-210
 introduction of legislation, 40-40 40-50, H40-10
 preintroduction of legislation, 40-40, H40-10
 resolutions
 drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50
 introduction, 40-50
 revenue bills
 drafting requests, 40-50
 transmittal, 40-200, S40-20



Deadlines (continued)

- committee hearing notice requirements, applicability, S30-60
- governor, enrolled bills to, 40-160

Debate, See also **Speaking limitations**

- adverse committee reports, H40-100
- asking questions of members in, H50-100
- called to order, senator having been, S20-30
- close, to, S50-30, S50-60, S50-80, H40-170, H50-80, H50-150
- cloture, motion to call for, H40-160, H40-170, H50-90, H50-120, H50-160, H60-20, H60-30
- committee members, S30-70, H30-50
- Committee of the Whole, limitations during, H40-170
- committee recommendation, bills without—second reading, S30-70, H30-50
- committee reports, on, S50-120
- conference committee reports, H40-230
- consent calendar consideration, prohibited, H40-110
- end, motion to, H40-170, H50-150
- first reading, not in order, S40-20, H40-50
- general appropriations bill, H40-180
- governor
 - amendments, recommendations for, S50-240, H40-250
 - nominations for appointments, resolutions for—motions to approve or disapprove, S70-30
- house amendments to senate legislation, S50-230
- lead speaker during, majority leader as, S10-90, H10-50
- limits on, S50-30, S50-60, S50-80, H40-170, H40-180, H50-80, H60-20
- motions, See **Motions**
- postpone to a day certain, motion to—subject of, not debatable, H60-60
- predetermined amount of time and number of speakers, allocation, H40-170
- previous question, call for or adoption of motion for—debate closed, S50-80, H50-150
- question debatable on which there has been no debate, debate when previous question ordered for, S50-80
- questions, speaking limitation, S50-30, H40-170, H50-80
- refer or rerefer, motions to—subject of, not debatable, H60-60
- rules, senate—motion to amend or adopt, not required, S60-10
- senate amendments to house legislation, H40-220
- speak more than once, H40-170, H50-80, H50-160
- speak more than twice, S50-30
- third reading, on—prohibited, H40-200
- words spoken, member called to order for, S20-20

Decorum, S20-10, S20-20, H20-10—H20-80

- committee meetings, S30-60, H30-40
- employees, complaints concerning, 10-80, S10-80
- president of the senate, authority, S10-50
- presiding officer's discretion on issues, 10-50
- speaker of the house, authority, H10-20

Discipline of

- employees, 10-80, 10-85, S10-80, H20-60
- harassment offenders, 10-85
- house members, H20-80
- senate members, S20-20, S50-170

Disorderly conduct, S10-50, S30-80, S50-170, H10-20, H30-60**Disturbance of proceedings**, S10-50, S30-80, S50-170, H10-20, H30-60**Doorkeeper**, supervision, H10-110**Drafting of legislation**

- appropriation bills, 40-50
- fiscal note recommendations, 40-100
- requests
 - agency requests, 40-40
 - cancellation, 40-40
 - committee requests, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150, H30-50
 - deadlines, 40-40, 40-50
 - governor's nominations for appointments, S70-20
 - limitation, exceptions, and prioritization, 40-40, S70-20
- resolutions, 40-40, 40-50, H40-20
- revenue-estimating, 30-60
- revenue bills, 40-50
- sponsor required, S40-10, See **Sponsors, bill**

Duplicate bills, introduction prohibited when, 40-70**E****Economic Affairs Interim Committee**, 30-70

Education and Cultural Resources, Committee on, 30-70, S30-20

Education and Local Government Interim Committee, 30-70

Education, Committee on, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Effective dates of legislation, 40-30

Employees

- appointment of, S10-130, H10-90
- complaints involving, S10-80
- dismissal, suspension, and/or retention, 10-80, S10-80, H20-60
- engrossing and enrolling staff, 10-120
- floor admittance, S20-50, H20-40
- harassment prohibited, 10-85
- interim status, S10-20
- joint, 10-80
- lobbying prohibited, H20-60
- personnel files, 10-100
- preparation of materials, S20-70, H20-70
- recommendation for employment, S10-130
- supervision, S10-50, S10-140, S10-150, H10-20, H10-100
- telephone use, 10-70
- term of office, S10-20
- testimony by, H20-60

Energy and Telecommunications, Committee on, S30-20

Interim Committee, 30-70

Engrossing, 40-150, H40-190

- deadlines, 10-120, H40-190
- defined, 10-120, H40-190
- staff, hiring and duties, 10-120
- third reading following, S50-190, H40-190, H40-200

Enrolled legislation

- signing, 40-160, S10-50, H10-20, H40-240
- transmittal to other house, 40-160

Enrolling, 40-160, H40-240

- conference committee reports, clerical instructions, 30-40
- deadlines, 10-120, H40-240
- staff, hiring and duties, 10-120

Equipment, S10-80, S10-150, H(Appendix)

Errors

- clerical, correction, 10-120
- engrossing, 40-150
- enrolling, 40-160, H40-240
- fiscal notes, technical or mechanical defects of bill noted in, 40-100
- journals, correction, 10-160, S10-170, H10-140
- vote, caused by malfunction of voting system—correction, S50-200, H50-210

Ethics, Committees on, S30-20, S30-160, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Excused absence of members

- absentee votes, H50-220
- attendance required unless, S50-10, H50-10
- committee meetings
 - absentee or proxy votes, S30-100, H30-50
 - during house session, H30-40
 - during senate session, S30-60
- pairing of votes, S50-210
- unexcused absence, penalty, S50-220
- voting, from, S50-180, S50-210

Expenditures, S10-80, H10-30, H(Appendix)

F

Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications—Committee on, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Final action on a bill, 40-180

Final passage, See **Passage**

Final rejection of legislation, 40-70, 40-180, S50-50

Finance and Claims, Committee on, S30-20

- appropriation bills, consideration, 30-50
- chair, 30-50
- interim committees, selection, 30-70
- introduction of legislation, request for drafting or—majority vote required, S30-150

Fire marshal, posting of occupancy limitations, S30-80, H30-60



First reading of bills, 10-130, 40-130, S40-20, H40-40, H40-50
 governor's nominations for appointments, S70-20
 order of business, S50-20, H50-60

Fiscal notes, 40-65, 40-100, S30-70, H10-20, H30-50
 rebuttal, sponsor's, 40-110

Fish and Game, Committee on, S30-20

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks—Committee on, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Floor action, S50-10—S50-230, H50-10—H50-250

Floor admittance, 10-50, S20-50, H10-110, H20-30, H20-40

Floor duties, S10

Floor leaders, See **Majority floor leaders; Minority floor leaders**

Free conference committees, 30-30

Fund transfer not appropriation, 40-200

G

Galleries, clearance and order in, S10-50, H10-20, H10-110

Governor

amendments to legislation, recommendations for, 40-230, S50-240, H40-250

constitutional amendments, veto or signature not required, 40-10, 40-210

enrolled bills, delivery to and receipt, 40-160

line item veto, 40-210

messages from

journal entry, S10-170, H10-140

order of business, S50-20, S70-20, H50-60

veto messages, 40-210, 40-220

nominations for appointments, S70-10

bill draft requests for, S70-20

committee process, S70-30

hearings and notice requirements, S30-60, S70-30

resolutions for, S40-10, S70-10—S70-30

resolutions, approval and signature not required, 40-60, 40-210

signing of bills and exceptions, 40-210

veto of bills, 40-210, 40-220, S50-250, H40-260

constitutional amendments not subject to, 40-10, 40-210

failure to override does not constitute final rejection, 40-70

motion to override, vote requirement, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160

H

Harassment prohibited, 10-85

Hearings

committees, 40-190, S30-60, S30-70, S50-230, H30-40, H30-50, H40-220

news media, access, S30-80, H30-60

notice requirements and exceptions, S30-60, S70-30, H30-40

required on bills, H30-50

scheduling, S30-50

testimony, S30-80, H30-60

conference committees, notice requirements, S30-60

governor's nominations for appointments, S30-60, S70-30

news media, access, 10-50, S30-80, H30-6

Highway revenue, motion to approve bill to appropriate for purposes other than therein described, S-Appendix A, H50-160

Highways and Transportation, Committee on, 30-70, S30-20

Historical Society, copies of minutes filed with, 10-150, S30-50, H10-100

Human Services, Committee on, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)

I

Identical bills, introduction prohibited when, 40-70

Immunity from suit, motion to approve bill conferring, S-Appendix A, H50-160

Interim

committees, 30-70, 40-40, H(Appendix)

employees, status, S10-20

future sessions, preparation for, S10-80, H(Appendix)



Interim (continued)

studies

- appropriation required for bills requesting, 40-65
- request for, 40-50, 40-60, 40-65,
- resolutions for, 40-50, 40-60, 40-200

Internet access, 10-70**Introduction of and introduced legislation**, 40-40, 40-50, 40-130, S40-20, H40-80

- agency bills, 40-40
- appropriation bills, 40-20, 40-50, S40-10
- “by request of the.....” phrase may not be added, 40-40, H40-40
- color of paper, 10-130
- committee legislation, 40-40, S30-150, H30-50
- deadlines, 40-50, H40-10
- distribution, 10-130
- duplicate bills, prohibited when, 40-70
- endorsement with member’s name, 40-40, H40-40
- finance and claims, committee on—request and majority vote required, S30-150
- fiscal note requirements, 40-100
- fiscal note rebuttal, sponsor’s, 40-110
- format of, 10-130
- governor’s nominations for appointments, 40-50, S70-20
- interim study resolutions, 40-50
- jointly sponsored legislation, 40-40, H40-30
- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- notice, public, S40-20, H40-50
- numbering, 40-40, S40-20, H40-40
- other house, legislation from—what constitutes, H40-40
- preintroduction, 40-40, S40-20, H40-10, H40-40
- printing, 10-130, S40-20, S40-60
- referral to committee, See **Committees, generally**
- resolutions, 40-50, S40-10, S40-20, H40-20
- review prior to, 40-40
- senate, types allowed, S40-10
- sponsors, See **Sponsors, bill**
- withdrawal of, H30-50, H40-90

J

Joint committees, See **Committees, generally**

Joint resolutions, See **Resolutions**

Joint rules, See **Rules**

Joint sponsors, 40-40, H40-30, See also **Sponsors, bill**

Journals, 10-160, 10-170, S10-170, H10-140

- amendments to legislation, entry, S10-170, S50-150
- clerks, in both houses, training of, 10-100, S10-170
- committee reports, entry, S10-170, H10-140
- enrolled bills, entries, 40-160
- report on, S50-20
- roll call votes, entry, 10-150, S10-170, H10-140, H40-110
- secretary of state, delivery to, H10-100
- signing, 10-170, S10-50, H10-20, H10-140
- sponsors, bill—additional, entry, S40-30
- supervision, H10-100
- vote, motion to spread on the journal, H50-160
- votes, entry, 10-140, 10-150, S10-170, S50-150, S50-200, H10-140, H40-110, H50-200, H50-210

Judiciary, Committees on, 30-70, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)

L

Law and Justice Interim Committee, 30-70

Law Library, State—committee and subcommittee minutes and exhibits, copy to, S30-50, H10-100

Laws, See **Leadership**, See also **Majority floor leaders; Majority leaders; Minority floor leaders; Minority leaders; President of the Senate; President Pro Tempore of the Senate; Presiding officers; Speaker of the House;**

Speaker Pro Tempore of the House

- staff recommended by, S10-130
- standing committees’ workload, review by legislative council—recommendations, S30-20, H30-10



Leave with cause

call of the house, during, H50-50
excused absence is not, H50-10

Legislation generally, 40-10—40-230, S40-10—S40-40, S40-60, H40-10—H40-260**Legislative Administration, Committee on**, S10-80, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)

employees, responsibilities, S10-80, S10-130
president of the senate, advice and counsel to, S10-50

Legislative agencies, duties delegated to, H10-50**Legislative aides**, S10-160, H10-120

lobbying prohibited, H20-60
telephone use, 10-70
testimony by, H20-60

Legislative Council, standing committee workload—review and recommendations, S30-20, H30-10**Legislative day**, 10-20, H10-160

adjournment for, H50-240
adverse committee reports, consideration, H40-100
agenda
 amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130
 second and third readings, arrangement or amendment, H10-20, H40-190
calendar, approval, S10-50
committee hearings, notice requirements, S30-60
consent calendar legislation, posting, H40-110
engrossed legislation, third reading, H40-190
enrolled legislation
 journal entry, 40-160
 signing or certification, 40-160, H40-240

final day

engrossed legislation, third reading, H40-190
reading of legislation, S40-40, H40-60
report from committee and consideration on second reading, H40-140

fiscal notes, review by chief sponsor, 40-100

governor

amendments, recommendations for—consideration, S50-240, H40-250
nominations for appointments, resolutions for—consideration, S70-30
veto by, motion to override, S50-250, H40-260

introduction of legislation, requirements, 40-50, H40-10

opening, H50-60

president of the senate

absence for 2 or more days, effect, S10-60
to take chair when, S10-50

reading of legislation, one per day and exception, S40-40, H40-60

reconsideration vote on specific issue, one per day, H50-170

reconsider, motion to, S50-90, S50-120, H50-170

rules, house—committee report

on appeals from interpretation, H70-50
on resolutions for, H70-10

second reading consideration, time allowed between committee report and, H40-140

take from the table, motion to, H50-190

third reading, 40-150, H40-190

reconsider, motion to—further action, S50-90

transmittal deadline of bills and resolutions, 40-200

vote

motion to change, S50-200, H50-210
motion to reconsider, H50-170

Legislative Services Division, 10-100

committee and subcommittee minutes and exhibits, S30-50, H10-100
drafting requests—limitations, procedures, deadlines, and prioritization, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150
engrossing and enrolling staff, hiring, 10-120
enrolled bills, signed copies with chapter numbers filed with, 40-160
fiscal notes and sponsor's rebuttal, responsibilities, 40-100, 40-110
journal, responsibilities, 10-100, 10-160, 10-170, S10-170, H10-140
preintroduction of legislation, responsibilities, 40-40, S40-20
preparation of

 Committee of the Whole amendments, S50-150, H40-150
 materials, S20-70, H20-70

purchase orders and requisitions forwarded to, S10-80

request to change or correct short title, S40-20

rules

amendments, copies of motions and resolutions to division, 60-10
codification, publication, and distribution, 60-30



Legislative Services Division (continued)

- rules, committees on—minutes and reports, copies to, 60-10
- senate, types of legislation allowed, S40-10
- sponsors, bill—additional, responsibilities, 40-40, S40-30

Lobbies, clearance and order in, S10-50, H10-20, H10-110**Lobbying**

- employees and aides—by, prohibited, H20-60
- harassment prohibited, 10-85
- limitations, H20-30
- rules, enforcement, S10-150

Local government, bills having fiscal impact—fiscal note requirements, 40-100**Local Government, Committees on**, 30-70, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)**M****Majority floor leaders**

- agenda, arrangement of legislation on, S40-60
- call of member to order, S20-20

Majority leader, S10-90, H10-10, H10-50

- call of member to order, H20-80
- committee appointments, advice, S30-10
- Committee of the Whole amendments, H40-150
- committees, as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40, H30-30
- debate, predetermined amount of time and number of speakers—allocation, H40-170
- procedural motions by, H50-70
- secretaries, private, S10-130, H10-90

Majority whips, S10-100, H10-10, H10-60**Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2000)**, use, 60-20, S60-20, H70-40**Media**, See **News Media****Meetings**, See also **Sessions**

- appropriation bills, joint committee for consideration, 30-50
- committee, S30-60, S30-70, H30-40, H30-50
 - announcement, S50-20, H50-60
 - notice requirements and exceptions, S30-60, H30-40
 - quorum, S30-40, H30-30
- conference committees, 30-20, 30-30
- ethics committee, S30-160
- news media, access, 10-50, S20-50, H20-40
- place of, 10-40
- rules, committees on, 30-20
- time of, each house, 10-10

Messages from the governor

- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- order of business, S50-20, S70-20, H50-60
- veto messages, 40-210, 40-220

Messages from the other house, S50-20, H40-40, H50-60

- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140

Minority floor leaders

- call of member to order, S20-20
- drafting requests, prioritization, 40-40

Minority leader, S10-110, S30-10, H10-10, H10-70

- call of member to order, H20-80
- committee appointments, S30-10, H30-10
- Committee of the Whole amendments, H40-150
- committees, as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40, H30-30
- consent calendar, agreement for placement on, H40-110
- debate, predetermined amount of time and number of speakers—allocation, H40-170
- secretaries, private, S10-130, H10-90

Minority whips, S10-120, H10-10, H10-80**Minutes**

- committees, 10-150, 30-30, S10-130, S30-50, S30-60, S30-100, H10-100, H30-20, H30-40
- filing with historical society, 10-150, S30-50, H10-100
- rules, committees on, 60-10
- subcommittees, H10-100
- votes, entry, 10-150



Motions

- absentee or proxy votes, procedures, H30-50, H50-220
- adjourn, to
 - in order when, S50-220, H50-30, H60-40
 - legislative day, for, H50-240
 - nondebatability, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - sine die, H50-250, H60-40
- adverse committee reports
 - response to, S50-120
 - to overturn, H50-160
 - to reject, H40-100
- agenda
 - change order of placement on, S50-160, H40-160
 - second or third reading, to add legislation, H40-130, H50-160
- amendability of motions, H50-110
 - call of the house, for (no), H50-110
 - without quorum (no), H50-30
 - cloture, to call for (yes), H40-160, H40-170
 - limitation, S50-70, H50-110
 - main motion, H60-100
 - nondebatability, motion to amend—nondebatability, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - number of amendments allowed, S50-70, H50-110
 - pass consideration, to (yes), H40-160
 - postpone to a day certain (yes), H60-60
 - previous question, for (no), H50-110
 - reconsider, to (yes), H40-160
 - rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again (yes), H40-160
 - table, to (no), H50-110, H50-190
 - take from the table, to (no), H50-110
 - withdrawal of motion prior to amendment, S50-40, H50-130
- amend, to
 - Committee of the Whole, in order during, S50-160, H40-160, H60-110
 - general appropriations bill, H40-180
 - nondebatability, S50-60
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - roll call vote, 10-150
 - rules, 60-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- appeal of call of member to order, S20-20, H20-80
- “be concurred in” or “be not concurred in”, failure on second reading—effect, H40-140
- call of the house
 - amendment prohibited, H50-30, H50-110
 - for, H50-30, H50-90, H50-120
 - lift, to, H50-160
 - nondebatability, H50-30, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - remove, to, H50-30
 - without a quorum, H40-160, H50-30
- call of the senate
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70
 - for, S50-50, S50-60
 - lift, to, S-Appendix A
 - remove the call, to, S50-220
- change a vote, S50-60, H50-90
- cloture, to call for
 - Committee of the Whole, in order during, H40-160, H40-170
 - nondebatability, H50-90, H60-20
 - in order when, H40-170
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - vote requirement, H40-170, H50-160
- coal severance tax trust fund, to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- Committee of the Whole
 - allowed in, S50-160, H40-160
 - “be concurred in” or “be not concurred in”, H40-140, H60-110
 - “do pass”, “do pass as amended”, or “do not pass”, H40-140, H60-110
 - floor amendments, H60-110
 - formation of committee by, S50-140
 - in order during, enumeration, H40-160
 - order of, S50-160, H40-160
 - pass business, to, S50-60
 - vote requirements, 10-150



Motions (continued)

- committees
 - minutes, entry, S30-60, H30-40
 - offered in, S30-70, H30-50
 - withdraw a bill from, motion to, S40-60, H40-90, H50-160
- commit, to, S50-50
- concurrency, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160, H40-160
- conference committees, to dissolve, S50-130, H40-230
- consent calendar, to place on, H40-110
- constitutional amendments, Montana—to approve bill proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- debatable, S50-160, H40-160
 - postpone to day certain, limitations, H60-60
 - reconsider, motion to, S50-90, H50-170
 - refer or rerefer, terms, H60-80
 - speaking limitation, H50-80
 - speak more than once, motion to, H50-160
- debate
 - limit, extend the limits of, or to close, S50-60, H60-20
 - motions during, S50-50, H60-30
 - of motions
 - general appropriations bill, to reopen a section, H40-180
 - second reading, S50-160
 - speaking limitation, S50-30, H40-170, H50-80
 - to end, H40-170, H50-150
- dilatory, H20-50
- divide a question, to
 - allowed when, S50-100, H50-140
 - appeal of ruling, H50-140
 - nondebatable, H50-90, H60-20
 - not motion to segregate, S50-100
 - no vote required, S50-100
- “do pass” or “do not pass”, failure on second reading—effect, H40-140
- first reading, not in order, S40-20, H40-50
- general appropriations bill, to reopen a section for amendment, H40-180
- governor
 - nominations for appointments, resolutions for—to approve or disapprove, S70-30
 - veto by, to override, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160
- highway revenue, to approve bill to appropriate for purposes other than therein described, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- immunity from suit, to approve bill conferring, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- incidental, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- lay on the table, to
 - question of privilege not allowed when, S20-30, H20-20
 - reconsider, motion to, S50-90
- main motion, S50-70, S50-80, H60-100
- modifying motions, S50-70
- nonconcurrency, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160, H40-160
- nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H50-120 H60-20
 - adjourn, to, S50-60, H50-90, H50-120, H60-20
 - legislative day, for, H50-240
 - sine die, H50-250, H60-40
 - amend nondebatable motion, to, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - appeal of call of member to order, S20-20, H20-80, H50-90
 - call of the house, H50-90, H60-20
 - without a quorum, H50-30
 - call of the senate, S50-60
 - change a vote, S50-60, H50-90
 - cloture, to call for, H40-160, H50-90, H60-20
 - Committee of the Whole, in, S50-160, H40-160
 - debate—limit, extend the limits of, or to close, S50-60
 - divide a question, to, H50-90, H50-140, H60-20
 - incidental motions, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - lay on the table, to, S50-60
 - parliamentary inquiry, for, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - pass business in Committee of the Whole, to, S50-60, H40-160
 - pass consideration, to, H40-160
 - previous question, for, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - procedural motions, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - question lack of quorum, H50-90
 - question of privilege not allowed when, S20-30, H20-20
 - recess or rise, to, S50-60, H50-90, H50-120 H60-20
 - reconsider, to, S50-120, H40-160
 - rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again—to, S50-60, H40-160, H50-90, H60-20



Motions (continued)

- nondebatable (continued)
 - rules, to suspend, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - table, to, H50-90, H50-120 H50-190, H60-20
 - take from the table, to, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - vote, to change, S50-60, S50-200, H50-90 H50-210
- nonpassage, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160, H40-160
- noxious weed management trust fund, to appropriate principal of, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- offering, procedures upon, S50-40, H50-70
- order of, S50-50, S50-90, H40-160 H50-120
- order of business, S50-20, H50-60, H50-70, H50-120, H60-30
- parliamentary inquiry, for, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
- passage, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160, H40-160
- pass consideration, to, S50-160, H40-160
- postpone consideration to a day certain, H60-60
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - reconsider, motion to, H50-170
- postpone indefinitely, to
 - bills or resolutions indefinitely postponed, effect, S50-50
 - Committee of the Whole, in order during, S50-160
 - roll call vote, 10-150
- previous question, to call for
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110
 - effect of adoption, H50-150
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - table, motion to—moving question after, H60-100
- privilege, question of—for, S50-50, H50-120, H60-30
- procedural
 - majority leader, by, H50-70
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - renewal, H50-180
 - voice vote, H50-200
- question another representative, H60-110
- question, debate of—motions allowable, S50-50
- question lack of quorum, H50-90
- recall legislation from other house, to, S50-90, H50-170
- recess, to
 - in order when, H60-40
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - reconvening, revert to order of business specified in motion, S50-20
- reconsider, to, S30-140, S50-90, S50-120, S50-160, H50-170
 - adjourn or recess, motion to—vote not subject to, H60-40
 - committee action, S30-70, H30-50
 - Committee of the Whole, in order during, H40-160
 - committee report adoption, S50-120
 - legislation indefinitely postponed, S50-50
 - procedure, S50-90, H50-170
 - renewal or reconsideration prohibited, H50-170
 - third reading action, S50-90
- refer, to, S50-50, H50-120, H60-30, H60-70, H60-80
- remove legislation from normal progress through house and reassign, H50-160
- renewal, H50-170, H50-180
- rerefer, to, H40-80, H50-160, H60-30, H60-80
- restatement, S50-40
- rise, rise and report, rise and report progress and ask/beg leave to sit again—to, S50-160, H40-160, H60-110
- rise, to, S50-60, S50-160, H40-160, H50-90, H50-120, H60-20, H60-30
- rules
 - amend or adopt, to, 60-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - presiding officer's interpretation, to appeal, H50-160
 - suspend, to, S50-60, S50-200, S-Appendix A, H50-90, H50-160, H60-20, H70-30
- second reading
 - disposition by positive vote, S50-180
 - standard motions, H60-110
- seconds not required, S30-70, H30-50, H50-70
- segregate legislation, to, S50-140, H40-140
 - not motion to divide, S50-100
- speaking on, limitations, S50-30, H40-170
- speak more than once on debatable motion, motion to, H50-160
- sponsors, bill—to add, 40-40, S40-30
- standard motions, H60-110
- state debt, creation—to approve bill to authorize, H50-160



Motions (continued)

- subject different from that under consideration, motions not admitted, S50-50
- subsidiary, S50-50, S50-80
- substitute, S50-50, S50-90, H50-120, H50-170, H60-30
 - limitation, S50-70
- table, to
 - allowed when, H50-190
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110, H50-190
 - effect when carried, H60-50
 - nondebatable, H50-90, H50-190, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - previous question, moving after, H60-100
 - reconsider, motion to, H50-170
- take from the table, to
 - allowed when, S30-70, H30-50, H50-190
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H60-30
 - reconsider, motion to, S50-90
 - table, motion to—superseded by, H60-50
- tobacco settlement trust fund, to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- veto by governor, to override, 40-220, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160
- vote
 - relating to, nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - to change, S50-200, H50-90, H50-160, H50-210, H60-110
 - to decide motions, H50-70, H50-200
 - to record, H50-160
 - to spread on the journal, H50-160
 - withdrawal of motion prior to, S50-40, H50-130
- withdraw a bill from committee, to, S40-60, H40-90, H50-160
- withdrawal of, S50-40, H50-130

Motor vehicle taxes or fees, statutes imposing—effective date, 40-30**N****Natural Resources, Committee on, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)****News media**

- floor admittance, registration required, 10-50, S20-50, H20-40
- hearings and meetings, access, 10-50, S30-80, H30-60

Notice, See Public notice**Noxious Weed Management Trust Fund, motion to appropriate principal of, S-Appendix A, H50-160****Numbering of legislation, 40-40, S40-20, H40-40**

- chapter numbers, 40-160
- introduction, to constitute, S40-20, H40-40
- pages of introduced bills, 10-130
- preintroduced legislation, reservation for, H40-40

O**Objections**

- clerical errors, correction, 10-120
- consent calendar legislation, H40-110
- journal corrections, S10-170, H10-140
- standing committee recommendations, form, H40-100
- voice vote on procedural motions, to, H50-200

Officers, S10-10, S10-30, S10-90—S10-150, H10-10, H10-50, See also specific officer

- election, S10-10, S10-60, H10-10
- floor admittance, S20-50
- term of office, S10-20

Operations, S10-80, H(Appendix)

- appropriation bills for, 40-20

Order and privilege, points of, S30-70, H30-50**Order during proceedings**

- committees
 - chair, duties, S30-60, S30-70, H30-20, H30-40, H30-50
 - members, privileges, S30-70, H30-50
 - rooms, S30-50
- president of the senate, authority, S10-50, S10-150
- presiding officer's discretion on issues, 10-50



- Order during proceedings** (continued)
 senate members, misconduct, S50-170
 sergeants-at-arms, duties, S10-150, H10-110
 speaker of the house, authority, H10-20
- Order, members called to**, S20-20, H20-80, H50-90
- Order of business**, S50-20, H50-60
 adjourn for a legislative day, motion to, H50-240
 adjourn sine die, motion to, H50-250
 adverse committee reports, debate, H40-100
 committee reports, reading, S50-120, H50-60
 conference committee
 meetings, announcement, 30-30
 reports, S50-130, H40-230
 consent calendar legislation, H40-110
 governor
 amendments, recommendations for, S50-240, H40-250
 nominations for appointments, S70-20
 veto by, announcement and motion to override, S50-250, H40-260
 house amendments to senate legislation when returned to senate, S50-230
 motions, S50-20, H50-60, H50-70, H50-120, H50-210, H60-30
 pass to new order of business, S50-20
 recess or stand at ease, H50-230
 reconsider or recall
 committee report, S50-120
 legislation, motions to, S50-90
 reconvening after recess, S50-20
 revert to new order of business, S50-20
 senate amendments to house legislation when returned to house, H40-220
 sponsors, bill—additional, noted for record, H40-30
 table, motion to, H50-190
 take from the table, motion to, H50-190
 third reading, S50-20, S50-190, H40-110, H50-60
 vote, motion to change, H50-210
 votes, recorded—manner of making, S50-180
- Order, points of**, S30-70, H30-50
- Order, questions of**, S20-10, H20-20
- Orders of the day, special**—order of business, S50-20, H50-60
 consent calendar legislation, H40-110
 recognition of individual or group achievements, 40-60
- Original bill**
 enrolling, 40-160
 sponsors, additional, S40-30
 substitution of new material, 40-120
- Other house**
 amendments, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-200, H40-220, H60-110
 governor's recommendations for amendments, 40-230
 house amendments to senate legislation, S50-230
 introduction of legislation, what constitutes, S40-20, H40-40
 messages from, S10-170, S50-20, H10-140, H40-40, H50-60
 recall legislation from, motion to, S50-90, H50-170
 referral of legislation to committee, S40-20, H40-70
 rejection of legislation, 40-180
 relations with, 20-10
 rules, committee on—reports for amendment of rules, referral, 60-10
 schedules, coordination, 10-30
 senate amendments to house legislation, H40-200, H40-220, H60-110
 senate legislation in house, treatment, S50-230, H30-50, H40-40, H40-50, H40-70, H40-210, H60-110
 third reading, 40-180

P

- Pages**, supervision, H10-110
- Papers**, distribution, S20-70, H10-110, H20-70
- Parking regulations**, enforcement, H10-110
- Passage**
 final
 majority vote for, questions or legislation requiring more than, S50-110, S50-130, S50-240, H40-120
 referral to committee required, H40-70
 resolutions, house, H40-20
 vote requirements, 10-140, 10-150, S50-110, H10-140, H40-120, H40-250



Passage (continued)

- governor, submission to for signature, 40-210
- second reading, recommendation for, 10-150, 40-140
- three readings of legislation required prior to, 40-130, S40-40

Payroll or per diem, See **Compensation****Petitions and communications**, order of business, S50-20, H50-60**Preintroduction of legislation prior to session**, 40-40, S40-20, H40-10, H40-40**Preparation of materials**, request for, S20-70, H20-70**Presession expenditures**, approval, H10-30**President-elect of the Senate**, responsibilities and authority, S10-70**President of the Senate**, S10-30, S10-50, S10-60, See also **Presiding officers**

- assistance to, by majority leader, S10-90
- calendar, duties, S10-50, S10-90, S10-140, S20-60
- call of member to order, S20-20
- Committee of the Whole, chair—appointment, S50-140
- committees, responsibilities, S30-60, S30-70
- communications to senate, S20-60
- conference committees
 - appointment, S30-10
 - dissolving, S50-130
- contracts for equipment and supplies, approval, S10-80
- drafting requests, prioritization, 40-40
- election of, S10-30
- employees, duties, S10-50, S10-80, S10-130, S20-70
- floor, admittance—duties, S20-50
- governor's nominations for appointments, receipt and referral, S70-20
- journal, duties, 10-170, S10-50, S10-170
- papers, distribution—approval, S20-70
- purchase orders and requisitions, approval, S10-80
- questions of order, to decide, S20-10
- referral of transmitted bills to committee, 40-190
- rereferral of legislation to committee, S50-230
- secretary, S10-130
- secretary of the senate, supervision, S10-140
- sergeant-at-arms, supervision, S10-150
- special committees, appointment, S30-10
- succession, S10-60
- third reading procedure, S50-190

President Pro Tempore of the Senate, S10-30, S10-50, S10-60**Presiding officers**, S10-50, See also **President of the Senate; Speaker of the House**

- appeal of ruling by, S50-60, S-Appendix A, H50-140, H50-160
- clerical correction of bills, 40-160
- committee chairs, S30-50
- consent calendar consideration, announcement, H40-110
- decisions nondebatable, S50-60
- engrossing and enrolling bills, approval of time extension, 10-120
- enrolled bills, responsibilities, 40-160, S10-50
- fiscal notes and sponsor's rebuttal, responsibilities, 40-100, 40-110
- harassment violations reported to, 10-85
- motions
 - dilatory, decision concerning, H20-50
 - restatement, S50-40
- news media subject to discretion of, 10-50
- order, senators called to, S20-30
- payrolls, certification and signature, 10-100
- previous question ordered, determination of lack of quorum, S50-80
- questions
 - dilatory, decision concerning, H20-50
 - representatives may ask of other representatives, H50-100
 - right to understand, representative's, H50-90, H60-10
- recognition of members to speak, S20-40, H20-10
- rules, interpretation—appeal of, H50-160
- schedules, coordination, 10-30
- third reading procedure, S50-190
- veto message read by, 40-220
- voting by, S10-40

Press representatives, See **News media****Printed matter**, distribution, S20-70, H10-110, H20-70

Printing

- journals, S10-170
- legislation
 - color of paper, 40-140, 40-150
 - consent calendar items, H40-110
 - engrossed bills, 40-150
 - enrolling, 40-160
 - first sheet only, when, 40-140, 40-150
 - fiscal notes and sponsor's rebuttal, 40-100, 40-110
 - introduced bills, 10-130
 - original legislation, 10-130,
 - preintroduced legislation, 40-40, S40-20
 - second house amendments, 40-150
 - second reading, 40-140, S40-60, H40-110, H40-190
 - sponsors, additional—inclusion, S40-30
 - substitute bills, 40-120
 - third reading, H40-110, H40-190

Privilege and order, points of, S30-70, H30-50

Privilege, questions of, S20-30, S50-50, H20-20, H50-120, H60-30

Privileges, committee members, S30-70, H30-50

Program development, policy formation, and policy decisions, assistance with, S10-90, H10-50

Progress, tracking of bill, space for notation of, 10-130

Processes and writs, service, H10-110

Publications

- journals, 10-170, S10-170, H10-140
- rules, 60-30
- supervision, H10-100

Public, committee meetings open to, S30-60, H30-40

Public Health, Welfare, and Safety—Committee on, 30-70, S30-20

Public, information available to

- committee minutes, S30-60, H30-40
- hearings, S30-60
- introduced legislation, S40-20, H40-50
- journals, 10-170, S10-170
- voting records, 10-150, H10-150

Public notice

- committees
 - hearings, S30-60
 - meetings, S30-60, H30-40
- governor's nominations for appointments, hearings, S30-60, S70-30
- introduced legislation, S40-20, H40-50

Public record, voting records as, 10-150, H10-150

Purpose of bill

- original, change prohibited, 40-90, H40-150
- same purpose, bills with—introduction or receipt after rejection, 40-70

Q**Questions**

- answers, questions and—no limit, H50-100
- asking, H50-90, H50-100, H60-10, H60-110
- committees
 - chair, duties, H30-20
 - procedure, S30-70, H30-50
- consent calendar consideration, H40-110
- debatable question on which there has been no debate, debate when previous question ordered for, S50-80
- debate closed upon adoption of motion for previous question, H50-150
- dilatory, H20-50
- divide a
 - motion to, nondebatable, H50-90, H60-20
 - request to, allowed when, S50-100, H50-140
 - appeal of ruling, H50-140
- general appropriations bill, concerning, H40-180
- main question, S50-80
- majority vote, requiring other than, S50-110, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- nondebatable, S50-60, H50-20
- order or privilege—precedence, decision, and appeal, S20-10, H20-20, H30-30
- pairing of votes, S50-210
- postponed indefinitely, S50-50



Questions (continued)

- previous
 - adjourn, motion to—not in order when, H60-40
 - call for, S50-80, H60-100
 - call for, motion to
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110
 - effect of adoption, H50-150
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - not in order when, H60-100
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - call of the senate not in order, S50-80
 - debatable question on which there has been no debate, ordered for, S50-80
 - question of privilege not allowed when, S20-30, H20-20
 - recess, motion to—not in order when, H60-40
 - table, motion to—not in order when, H60-50
- privilege, questions of, S20-30, S50-50, H20-20, H50-120, H60-30
- quorum
 - lack of, H50-20
 - motion to table prohibited, H50-190
- reconsider, motion to, S50-90
- right to understand, H50-90, H60-10
- rules
 - adherence to, when, S40-20, H40-50
 - amendment of house rules, H70-10
 - interpretation of house rules, H70-50
- speaking on, limitations, S50-30, H40-170, H50-80
- submission as definite proposition, H60-10
- table, motion to, H50-190
- third reading, state the question on, S50-190, H40-200
- vote to decide, S50-180, H50-200

Quorum

- call of the house without, H40-160, H50-30
- call of the senate
 - order for, S50-220
 - with, S-Appendix A
- committees, S30-40, H30-30
- lack of, S50-80, S50-220, H40-160
- previous question ordered, determination of lack of, S50-80
- question of lack of, H50-20, H50-90
- second reading, required for, H40-160
- table, motion to—prohibited, H50-190
- what constitutes, S50-10, H50-20

R**Reading**

- motions, when written, S50-40
- one reading of legislation per day, H40-60
- three readings of legislation required, 40-130, S40-40
- veto messages, 40-220

Recess, 10-40, 20-10 H50-230

- consent of other chamber required, when, 20-10
- governor's appointments during, S70-10
- motion to, See **Motions**

Reconsideration

- committees
 - previous action, S30-70, S30-140, H30-50
 - reports, action on adoption, S50-120
- conference committee reports, rejection, H40-230
- governor, by, 40-230
- motion to reconsider, See **Motions**
- segregated legislation, amendments adopted on, H40-140
- vetoed bills, 40-210
- vote on specific issue, one per day, H50-170

Reconvening

- after recess, order of business reverted to, S50-20
- vetoed bills, for consideration, 40-210



Records

- amendments, proposed—text, 10-150
- house, H10-100
 - official record, H10-140
 - amendments, rejected—as part of, H40-150
- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- secretary of state, delivery to, H10-100
- senate, S10-140
- supplies and equipment, purchase and disposal, S10-150
- testimony as part of official record, S30-80, H30-60
- votes, recording and public availability, 10-150, S50-180, H10-150

Reference bills, 40-150

- conference committee reports, clerical instructions, 30-40

Referendum measures

- governor's signature not required, 40-210
- preintroduction, 40-40
- secretary of state, transmittal to, 40-160
- title requirements, 10-130
- transmittal deadline, 40-200

Referral of legislation to committee, See Committees, generally**Rejection**

- amendments, 40-170, S50-150, S50-230, S50-240, H40-150, H40-220, H40-250
- Committee of the Whole report, S50-140, H40-140
- committee reports, H40-100
- conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230
- legislation, 40-70, 40-180, S50-50

Relations with other house, 20-10**Reports of committees, S30-70, S40-60, S50-120, H30-50, H40-80, See also Committees, generally**

- adoption, S50-120, H40-100, H40-140
 - of committee amendments, H30-50
- adverse committee reports, 10-150, S30-70, S50-120, H30-50, H40-100, H40-140
 - overturn, motion to, H50-160
 - reject, motion to, H40-100
- authentication, S30-50
- “be concurred in”, H40-80, H40-100, H40-140, H60-110
- “be not concurred in”, H40-100, H40-140, H60-110
- chair of committee, duties, H30-20
- Committee of the Whole, 10-150, 40-150, S50-140, H40-140, H60-110
 - resolutions, house—final passage, determination, H40-20
- conference committees, 30-30, S50-120, S50-130, H40-230
 - enrolling, clerical instructions, 30-40
- consent calendar, for placement on, H30-50, H40-110
- debate, S50-120
- “do not pass”, H40-100, H40-140, H60-110
- “do pass”, H40-80, H40-100, H40-110, H40-140, H60-110
- “do pass as amended”, H40-110, H60-110
- fiscal note requirements, 40-100, S30-70, H30-50
- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- order of business, S50-20, S50-120, H40-100, H50-60
- recommendation required, S30-70, H30-50
- reconsideration, S30-140, S50-120
 - prior to report, S30-140
- rejection, H40-100, H40-140
- rules, committees on, 60-10, S50-120, H70-10, H70-50
- second reading consideration, time between, H40-140
- select committees, order of business, S50-20, H50-60
- sponsors, bill—additional added prior to, 40-40, S40-30
- standing committees, S50-120, H40-100
 - consent calendar, motion to place on, H40-110
 - governor's nominations for appointments, S70-30
 - order of business, S50-20, S50-120, H40-100, H50-60
 - sponsors, bill—additional added prior to, S40-30
- substitute bills, 40-120
- when bill taken from committee, S30-70

Request for preparation of materials, S20-70, H20-70**Resolutions**

- clerical errors, correction, 10-120
- drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50, H40-20
- engrossing and enrolling, 10-120
- enrolled, signing, S10-50, H10-20



Resolutions (continued)

- governor
 - approval not required, 40-60
 - nominations for appointments, 40-50, S40-10, S70-10—S70-30
 - signature not required, 40-210
- interim studies, 40-50, 40-60
- introduction, 40-50, S40-10, S40-20, H40-20
- joint resolutions, 40-60, S40-10
 - administrative rules—for adoption, amendment, or repeal, 40-50, 40-60
 - consent calendar, placement on, H40-110
 - effective date, 40-30
 - final passage, vote requirement, 10-150
 - interim studies, 40-50, 40-60
 - introduction, 40-50, S40-10
 - joint rules, removal, 60-40
 - joint sponsors, 40-40
 - revenue estimation, for, 30-60
 - third reading, H40-200
- numbering, 40-40, S40-20
- referral to committee, S30-60, H40-20
- revenue-estimating, 30-60
- rules
 - amendment, 60-10
 - house rules, H70-10, H70-20
 - secretary of state, transmittal or delivery to, 40-60, H10-100
 - simple resolutions, S40-10, H40-20, H40-110, H70-10, H70-20
 - transmittal deadline, 40-200, H40-20
 - uses, enumeration, 40-60, S40-10, H40-20

Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee, 30-60, 30-70**Revenue, bill reducing**—reduction in appropriation in general appropriations act required, 40-180**Revenue bills**, 40-200

- committee revenue bills, 40-50
- consent calendar, exception, H40-110
- definition, 40-200
- drafting request deadline, 40-50
- fiscal notes, 40-100
- transmittal deadlines, 40-200

Revenue estimation, resolution for, 30-60**Rights**

- dilatory motions or questions, protection from, H20-50
- divide a question, H50-140
- questions of order and privilege, H20-20
- questions of privilege, S20-30
- question, to understand, H50-90, H60-10

Roll call, S50-20, H50-20, H50-60**Rooms**

- assignment by president of the senate, S10-50
- committee, S30-50, S30-80, H30-60
- sergeant-at-arms, duties, H10-110
- signs or placards not permitted, H10-20

Rulemaking authority, See **Administrative rules****Rules**, 60-10—60-30, S60-10, S60-20, H70-10—H70-60

- adherence to, question of, H40-50
- adoption, 40-60, S40-10, S60-10, H40-20, H70-10, H70-20
- amendment, 40-60, 60-10, S40-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A, H40-20, H50-160, H70-10
- appeals concerning interpretation, H50-160, H70-50
- codification, publication, and distribution, 60-30
- house deliberations, interpretation and enforcement, H10-20
- house rules
 - adoption, amendment, or repeal, 60-10, H40-20, H50-160, H70-10, H70-20
 - committee procedure, questions on, H30-50
 - interpretation, H70-50
 - joint rules, to supersede when, H70-60
 - supplementary, H70-40
 - suspension, H70-30
 - tenure, H70-20
 - violation, H20-80
- joint rules
 - adoption, amendment, or repeal, 40-60, 60-10, S40-10
 - superseded by house rules when, H70-60



Rules (continued)

- joint rules (continued)
 - suspension, 60-10
 - tenure, 60-40
- mason's manual of legislative procedure (2000), use, 60-20, S60-20, H70-40
- senate rules
 - adoption, amendment, or repeal, 60-10, S40-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A
 - committee procedure, applicability, S30-70
 - suspension, temporary, S60-10
 - violation, S20-20
- suspension, 60-10, S60-10, H70-30
 - motion to suspend, S50-60, S-Appendix A, H50-90, H50-160, H60-20, H70-30
- transmittal to other house, 60-10
- Rules, Committees on**, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)
 - appeals to or from decisions by, H50-160, H70-50
 - ethics committee, referral of issues to, S30-160
 - harassment violations reported to, 10-85
 - house rules
 - resolutions for, referral and reporting, H70-10
 - violation of, member called to order—referral to, H20-80
 - legislative aides, approval when, S10-160, H10-120
 - minutes, 60-10
 - reports, 60-10, S50-120, H70-10
 - allowed in Committee of the Whole, S50-120
 - same purpose, bills with—introduction or reception following rejection, approval, 40-70
 - senate rules
 - motion to amend or adopt, referral to, S60-10
 - violation of, member called to order—referral to, S20-20
 - speaker of the house, duties, H10-20
 - voting in, 30-20

S**Salaries**, See **Compensation****Salmon-colored bills**, 40-150**School districts, bills having fiscal impact**—fiscal note requirements, 40-100**Second house**, See **Other house****Second reading of bills**, See also **Committee of the Whole**

- adverse committee report rejected, following, H40-100
- agenda
 - add legislation, motion to, H40-130, H50-160
 - amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130
 - arrangement or rearrangement of, S40-60, H10-20, H30-130
- amendments by second house, consideration, 40-150, S50-230, H40-220
- amendments in Committee of the Whole, 40-150, S50-140, S50-150, H40-140, H40-150
 - preparation of, S50-150, H40-150
- bills removed from committee and placed on, S30-70
- committee recommendation, bills without—debate, S30-70, H30-50
- committee reports, See **Reports of committees**
- conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230
- consent calendar legislation, H40-110
- consideration of business on, S50-140, H40-140
- debate, S50-140, H40-140
- engrossing following, H40-190
- fiscal note requests, 40-100
- governor's recommendations for amendments, consideration, S50-240, H40-250
- house amendments to senate legislation, S50-230
- joint select or joint special committees, bills requested and heard by, 40-140
- motions allowable, enumeration, S50-160, H40-160, H60-110
- order of business, S50-20, S50-120, H50-60
- placement on, 40-140, S40-60, H40-140, H40-220
- printing of legislation, 40-140, S40-60
- progression through house, H40-80
- quorum, failure to have, H40-160
- rejection of Committee of the Whole report, effect, S50-140, H40-140
- scheduling for, S40-60, H40-100
- segregated legislation, S50-140, H40-140
- senate amendments to house legislation, H40-220
- timing of bills placed on, S40-60, H40-140
- vote on, S50-180, S50-230, H40-140

Secretaries, S10-130, H10-90

Secretary of State

- bills and bill records, delivery to, H10-100
- enrolled bills, originals filed with, 40-160
- journal, delivery to, H10-100
- referendums, bills proposing—transmittal to, 40-160
- resolutions and resolution records, delivery or transmittal to, 40-60, H10-100, H40-20

Secretary of the Senate, S10-130, S10-140

- amendments, responsibilities, S50-150
- clerical corrections, notification and objection, 10-120
- committees
 - minutes, responsibilities, S30-50
 - reports, responsibilities, S30-50, S30-140, S50-130
 - secretaries responsible to, S10-130
- conference committee reports, filing, S50-130
- governor's nominations for appointments
 - committee reports, delivery and reading, S70-30
 - delivery to and distribution, S70-20
- harassment violations reported to, 10-85
- introduction or reception of legislation, 40-40, S10-50, S40-20
 - public posting of introduced legislation, S40-20
- journal, responsibilities, S10-170
- legislative aides registered with, S10-160
- motions read aloud when, S50-40
- pairing of votes, agreements filed with, S50-210
- preintroduction of legislation, S40-20
- resolutions, transmittal to, 40-60
- rules, amendments to—responsibility, 60-10
- rules, committee on—minutes and reports, responsibility, 60-10
- signature by president of the senate, attestation, S10-50
- sponsors, bill—forms for adding, S40-30
- third reading procedure, S50-190
- transmittal of legislation, responsibility, 40-60, 40-190, S10-140
- vote, standing—recording, S50-180

Select committees, See also **Committees, generally**

- absentee or proxy votes, S30-100, H30-50
- appointments to or removal from, S30-10, H30-10
- chair, duties of, H30-10, H30-20, H30-50
- conference committee reports, order of business, S50-130, H40-230
- joint committees, referral of bills to, H40-70
- referral to, H40-70, H40-80, H(Appendix)
 - question put when, H60-70
- referred legislation, consent to take up, S30-70, H30-50
- reports, order of business, S50-20, H50-60
- request or receipt of legislation, 40-40, 40-130, 40-140, H30-10
- rereferral of legislation to committee, H(Appendix)
- rules, subject to, H30-10
- secretaries, H10-90
- senate bills in house, scheduling of, H30-50
- subcommittees, appointment to, H30-20
- testimony, S30-80, H30-60

Sergeant-at-Arms, S10-150, H10-110

- aisles, order to clear, H10-20
- appointment of, H10-90
- arrests by, S50-220
- legislative aides, notice of sponsorship and identification, S10-160, H10-120
- papers, distribution, H20-70

Service of processes and writs, H10-110**Sessions**, See also **Meetings**

- adjourn sine die, motion to, H50-250, H60-40
- committee meeting
 - holding during house session, H30-40
 - holding during senate session, S30-60
- future, interim preparation, S10-80
- legislative day, See **Legislative day**
- lobbying, S10-150, H20-30, H20-60
- order of business, See **Order of business**
- questions, asking, H50-100
- special, absence of president of the senate—effect, S10-60

Seven bill limit and exceptions, 40-40**Speaker-elect of the House**, responsibilities and author

Speaker of the House, H10-10, H10-20, See also **Presiding officers**

absence, H10-20, H10-40
 adverse committee reports, rejection—scheduling for second reading, H40-100
 agendas, responsibilities, H10-20, H40-100
 appeal of ruling of, H50-140, H50-160, H70-50
 assistance to, by majority leader, H10-50
 call of member to order, H20-80
 chaplain, appointment of, H10-90
 chief clerk of the house, appointment and supervision, H10-90, H10-100
 committees, responsibilities, H30-10—H30-40
 appointment of committee chair, vice-chair, and members, H30-10
 conference committees, dissolving, H40-230
 consent calendar, agreement for placement on, H40-110
 debate, responsibilities, H50-150
 drafting requests, prioritization, 40-40
 employees, responsibilities, H10-20, H10-90, H20-60
 engrossing, responsibility, H40-190
 enrolling, responsibilities, H10-20, H40-240
 floor admittance, exceptions allowed by, H20-40
 journal, responsibilities, 10-170, H10-20, H10-140
 leave with cause, approval, H50-50
 legislative aides, privileges withdrawn when, H20-60
 order and privilege, questions of—to decide, H20-20
 papers, distribution—permission for, H20-70
 recess, order for, H50-230
 recognition of members to speak, H20-10
 referral of legislation to committee, 40-190, H40-70, H(Appendix)
 rules, responsibilities, H10-20, H70-10, H70-50
 secretary, private, H10-90
 senate amendments to house legislation, placement on second reading, H40-220
 sergeant-at-arms and assistants, appointment and direction, H10-90, H10-110
 third reading, state the question on legislation on, H40-200

Speaker Pro Tempore of the House, H10-10, H10-20, H10-40**Speaking limitations**, See also **Debate**

appeal on question of order, S20-10
 appropriations, general appropriations bill—debate, H40-180
 close debate, to, H40-170, H50-80
 motions, debatable, H50-80
 predetermined amount of time and number of speakers for debate, H40-170

Speaking, violation of rules, S20-20, H20-80**Speak more than once**, H40-170, H50-80

appeal, on, S20-10
 debatable motion, on—motion to, H50-160

Speak more than twice, S50-30**Speak, recognition of member to**, S20-40, H20-10**Special sessions**, absence of president of the senate—effect, S10-60**Sponsors, bill**

additional, 40-40, S40-30, H40-30
 agency bills, 40-40
 chief sponsor, S40-10
 additional sponsors, adding, 40-40, S40-30, H40-30
 enrolled legislation, responsibilities, H40-240
 fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
 fiscal note requirements, 40-100
 introduction of legislation, duties, H40-40
 joint—change prohibited, 40-40
 clerical corrections—notification and objection, 10-120
 committee bills, 40-40
 committee, consideration of bill—notification, S30-70, H30-50
 Committee of the Whole amendments, H40-150
 committees as, S30-150
 consent for committee to take up referred legislation, S30-70, H30-50
 cosponsors, 40-40, S30-70, S40-30, H30-50, H40-30
 enrolled legislation, responsibilities, 40-160
 fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
 forms, 40-40, S40-30, H40-30
 joint sponsors, 40-40, H40-30
 preintroduced legislation, 40-40
 request to dispose of or withdraw bill by, S30-70, H30-50

Stand at ease, House, H50-230

- Standing committees**, S30-20, H30-10, See also **Committees, generally**
 absentee or proxy votes, S30-70, S30-100, H30-50
 amendments by second house, 40-150
 appointments to, S30-10, H30-10
 chair, S10-130, S30-20, H30-10, H30-20, H30-50
 consent calendar, eligibility and placement on—procedure, H40-110
 drafting requests, 40-40, S30-150
 interim committees, appointment, 30-70
 introduction of legislation, 3/4 vote required, S30-150
 joint committee, bill heard in—referral to, S30-60
 minority vice chair, H30-10
 minutes, S10-130, H30-20
 pairing of votes prohibited in, S30-100
 referral to, H40-80, H(Appendix)
 question put first, H60-70
 referred legislation, consent to take up, S30-70, H30-50
 reports, S50-120, H30-20, H40-100
 consent calendar, motion to place on, H40-110
 governor's nominations for appointments, S70-30
 order of business, S50-20, S50-120, H40-100, H50-60
 sponsors, bill—additional added prior to, S40-30
 scheduling of, S30-20, H30-10
 senate bills in house, H30-50
 secretaries, S10-130, H10-90
 subcommittees, appointment to, H30-20
 testimony, S30-80, H30-60
 tie vote in, H30-50
 withdrawal of bill from, H30-50, H40-90
- State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee**, 30-70
- State Administration, Committees on**, 30-70, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)
- State debt**, creation—motion to approve bill to authorize, H50-160
- Statutes**
 amendment, 10-130, 40-80
 enrolled bills, 40-160
 effective dates, 40-30
 enactment, 40-90, 40-210
 committee referral or rereferral required, S30-60
 vote requirement, 10-140
 extension of provisions, 40-80
 material copied incorrectly from, correction, 10-120
 repeal, 10-130
 reproduction of full statute, 40-80
- Subcommittees**, S30-60, H30-40, See also **Committees, generally**
 appointment to, S30-50, H30-20
 appropriations, house committee on — of, H30-10, H40-180
 Committee of the Whole, appointment by—prohibited, S50-170
 joint, general appropriation bills, 30-50
 minutes and exhibits, H10-100
- Subject matter of bill**
 similar bills, prohibited when, 40-70
 substitute bills, 40-120
- Subpoenas**, S10-50, H10-20
- Substitute bills**, 40-120
- Supplies**, S10-80, S10-150

T

- Tan-colored bills**, 40-150
- Taxation, Committees on**, 30-70, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)
- Tax bills**, See **Revenue bills**
- Telephone use**, 10-70
- Third reading of bills**
 agenda
 add legislation, motion to, H40-130, H50-160
 amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130
 arrangement, H10-20
 amendments
 prohibited, S40-40, H40-200
 second house, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-220
 calendar, placement on, 40-150, H40-190



Third reading of bills (continued)

- conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230
- consent calendar legislation, H40-110
- debate prohibited, H40-200
- engrossed legislation, placement on, 40-150, S50-190, H40-190
- failure to pass, H40-200
- governor's recommendations for amendments, S50-240, H40-250
- majority vote, questions or legislation requiring prior to third reading, S50-110, H40-120
- order of business, S50-20, S50-190, H40-110, H50-60
- placement on, S40-60, S50-190, S50-230, H40-190, H40-200
- progression through house, H40-80
- question, statement of, S50-190, H40-200
- reconsider, motion to, S50-90
- resolutions, house—not required, H40-20
- second house, 40-180
 - amendments, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-200, H40-220
- vote requirements, 10-140, 10-150, 40-170, S50-190, H40-200
- votes
 - absentee, not allowed, H50-220
 - recording, 10-150, H10-140

Three readings of legislation required, 40-130, S40-40**Time**. See also **Deadlines**

- adjournment, duration, 10-40
- committee
 - hearings, notice, S30-60
 - meetings and notice of, S30-60, H30-40
 - membership, notice of change, S30-10
- Committee of the Whole
 - debate, H40-170
 - second reading consideration, allowed after adoption of committee report and before, S40-60, H40-140
- consent calendar legislation, posting, H40-110
- debate
 - close debate, to, H40-170, H50-80
 - Committee of the Whole, H40-170
 - general appropriations bill, on, H40-180
 - question debatable on which there has been no debate, debate when previous question ordered for, S50-80
- effective dates—appropriations, joint resolutions, and statutes, 40-30
- enrolled bills—signing, journal entry, or certification, 40-160, H40-240
- floor admittance, S20-50, H20-30
- governor's nominations for appointments, request for separate consideration of nominee(s) and issuance of committee reports, S70-30
- introduced bills, required before transmittal deadline, 40-50
- legislative day ends when, 10-20, H10-160
- lobbying limitations, S20-50, H20-30
- meeting of each house, 10-10
- motions, debatable—debate on, H50-80
- president of the senate, absence after 85th day—effect, S10-60
- question of privilege
 - time for addressing house, H20-20
 - time for addressing senate, S20-30
- recess, duration, 10-40
- reconsider, motion to
 - immediate disposal when—exception, S50-90
 - reports of committees, following adoption, S50-120
- rules
 - notice for adoption or amendment of senate rules, S60-10
 - resolutions for house rules, report on, H70-10
- second reading consideration, allowed after adoption of committee report and before, S40-60, H40-140

Title of legislation

- errors caused by amendment, correction, 10-120
- introduced legislation, public posting by, S40-20
- journal index, entry, H10-140
- Montana code annotated sections amended or repealed, stated in, 10-130
- reading by, 40-130, S40-40, S50-140, S50-190
- referenda, requirements for, 10-130
- substitute bills, 40-120

Tobacco settlement trust fund, motion to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160**Transmittal of legislation**, 40-190, 40-200

- between houses, 40-140, 40-190
- consent calendar legislation, H40-110
- deadlines, 40-200
 - committee hearing notice requirements, applicability, S30-60



Transmittal of legislation (continued)

- enrolled bills, 40-160
- introduction deadline before, 40-50
- receipt for, from other house, 40-190
 - acknowledgment commences time limit for consideration, S40-20, H40-50
 - acknowledgment constitutes introduction, S40-20, H40-40
- second house, by, 40-180
- secretary of state, to, 40-60
- secretary of the senate, by, S10-140
- senate legislation to house, treatment by house, H40-40, H40-50, H40-70, H40-210
- resolutions, H40-20
- revenue bills, 40-200
- rules, new rules, or rule amendments, 60-10

Transportation, Committee on, H30-10, H(Appendix)**Twelve orders of business**, S50-20, H50-60

U

Unfinished business, S50-20, H50-60

V

Veto by governor. See **Governor****Visitors**, S20-50, S30-80, H20-40, H30-60, H60-110**Votes and voting**

- absentee, H50-220
 - not allowed, when, H50-50, H50-70, H50-220
- adverse committee reports, on, 10-150
- amendments to legislation, 40-170, S50-150, S50-230, H40-220
- appeal of ruling of presiding officer, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- by electronic means, H50-200
- call of the house, H50-30, H50-160
- call of the senate, S50-220, S-Appendix A
- change a vote
 - motion to, S50-60, S50-200, H50-90, H50-160, H50-210, H60-110
 - roll call vote, not allowed after decision announced, S50-200
 - third reading, S50-190
- clerical correction, on objection, 10-120
- Committee of the Whole, public record, 10-150, H10-150
- committees, S30-70, H30-50
 - absentee or proxy, authorization, S30-100, H30-50
 - bill introduction, 3/4 vote, S30-150, H30-50
 - drafting requests, 3/4 vote of committee, S30-150, H30-50
 - joint committees, in, 30-20, 30-50
 - members, privileges, S30-70, H30-50
 - minutes, entry, S30-60, H30-40
 - pairing prohibited in standing, S30-100
 - public record, 10-150
- conference committees, in, 30-20
 - reports not allowed when vote being taken, S50-120
 - reports on legislation requiring more than majority vote, S50-130, H40-230
- consent calendar, for eligibility and placement on, H30-50, H40-110
- consent calendar legislation, on, H40-110
- constitutional amendments, Montana, 10-140, S50-110
 - motion to approve bill proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- counting of, S10-100, S10-120, H10-60, H10-80
- electronic means, by, H50-200
- electronic voting system, S50-190, S50-200, H50-200, H50-210
- excused from, S50-180, S50-210
- final passage, on, 10-140, 10-150, S50-110, S50-130, H40-120, H40-220, H40-230
 - recording of votes, H10-140
- governor
 - recommendations for amendments, S50-240, H40-250
 - veto by, to override, 40-210, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160
- joint committees, 30-20, 30-50
- journal entry, 10-140, 10-150, S10-170, S50-150, S50-200, H10-140, H40-110, H50-200, H50-210
 - spread a vote on the journal, motion to, H50-160



Votes and voting (continued)

- majority
 - agenda for second or third reading, amendment, H40-130
 - amendments to bills requiring more than, 40-170
 - appeal of call of member to order, H20-80
 - arrest of members, S50-220
 - bills becoming laws, required, 10-140
 - call of the house, H50-30
 - call of the senate, S50-220
 - committees
 - absentee or proxy voting, authorization, S30-100, H30-50
 - bill introduction, 3/4 vote of committee, S30-150, H30-50
 - drafting requests, 3/4 vote of committee, S30-150, H30-50
 - finance and claims, committee on—drafting request, S30-150
 - motions, adoption, S30-70, H30-50
 - take from the table, to, S30-70, H30-50
 - conference committee reports on legislation requiring more than majority vote, S50-130, H40-230
 - constitutional amendments, Montana, 10-140, S50-110
 - general appropriations bill, to reopen a section, H40-180
 - governor's recommendations for amendments, S50-240, H40-250
 - legislation requiring other than, S50-130, S50-240, H40-120, H40-230, H40-250
 - motions, to decide, S30-70, H30-50, H50-70
 - order of business, new—revert or pass to, S50-20
 - previous question, adoption of motion for, H50-150
 - questions requiring other than, S50-110, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - question, to indefinitely postpone, S50-50
 - recess, H50-230
 - required when, 10-140, H40-120
 - rereferral to committee, S50-190, H40-80
 - overturning, H(Appendix)
 - rules
 - adoption of house rules, H70-10
 - adoption or amendment of senate rules, S60-10
 - third reading, failure to approve—effect, H40-200
 - withdraw bill from committee, 2015 session only, H40-90
- motions
 - adjourn or recess, to—effect of vote, H60-40
 - change a vote, to, S50-200, H50-90, H50-160, H50-210, H60-110
 - Committee of the Whole, made in—public record, 10-150
 - decide motions, vote to, S30-70, H30-50, H50-70, H50-200
 - majority vote, questions requiring other than, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - procedural, voice vote, H50-200
 - relating to voting, nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - table, to—effect of vote, H60-50
 - withdrawal of motion prior to vote, S50-40, H50-130
- pairing of, S30-100, S50-210
- present and, H50-160
 - absentee not allowed during, H50-220
- presiding officer, voting by, S10-40
 - appeal of ruling by, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- previous question
 - call for, effect, S50-80
 - motion for, H50-150
- proxy votes, S30-70, S30-100, H30-50
- public record, 10-150, H10-150
- questions, to decide, S50-180, H50-200
- reconsideration of vote, H50-170, H60-40, H60-50
- reconsideration vote on specific issue, one per day, H50-170
- record a vote, motion to, H50-160
- recording, 10-140, 10-150, S10-170, S30-70, S50-150, S50-180—S50-200, H10-140, H10-150, H30-50, H50-200, H50-210
- required of members, S50-10, H50-200
- roll call vote
 - adverse committee reports, 10-150
 - change or explanation of vote, S50-200
 - Committee of the Whole, motions made in, 10-150
 - consent calendar legislation, H40-110
 - journal entry, 10-150, S10-170, H10-140, H40-110
 - minutes, entry in, 10-150
 - question, to indefinitely postpone, S50-50
 - recording, 10-150, S10-170, H10-140, H40-110
 - request for, 10-150, S50-200
 - veto by governor, motion to override, 40-220
- rules, appeal of presiding officer's interpretation—motion to, S50-170



Votes and voting (continued)

- rules, committees on—in, 30-20
 - reports not allowed when vote being taken, S50-120
- second reading, S50-180, S50-230, H40-140
- spread a vote on the journal, motion to, H50-160
- standing vote, S50-180
- third reading, 10-140, 10-150, 40-170, S50-190, H40-200
 - absentee votes not allowed, H50-220
 - recording of votes, 10-150, H10-140
- 3/5 vote
 - adverse committee reports, motion to
 - overturn, H50-160
 - reject, H40-100
 - agenda for second or third reading, motion to add legislation, H40-130, H50-160
 - highway revenue, to approve bill to appropriate for purposes other than therein described, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - remove legislation from normal progress through house and reassign, H50-160
 - refer, motion to, H40-80, H50-160
 - referral to committee, overturning, H(Appendix)
 - withdraw a bill from committee, H40-90, H50-160
- 3/4 vote
 - coal severance tax trust fund, motion to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - committees, drafting requests or introduction of legislation, S30-150, H30-50
 - noxious weed management trust fund, motion to appropriate principal of, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - standing committees, to draft or introduce legislation, S30-150
- tie vote, H30-50
- 2/3 vote
 - call of the house
 - lifted by vote, H50-30
 - lift, motion to, H50-160
 - call of the senate
 - lift, motion to, S-Appendix A
 - remove, motion to, S50-220
 - cloture, motion to call for, H40-170, H50-160
 - constitutional amendments, Montana, 10-140, S50-110
 - motion to approve bill proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - immunity from suit—motion to approve bill conferring, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - leave with cause, approval during call of the house, H50-50
 - pairing of votes, S50-210
 - reconsider, motion to—to take from the table, S50-90
 - rules
 - amendment of house rules, H70-10
 - motion to amend or suspend, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - suspension, 60-10, S60-10, H70-30
 - state debt, creation—motion to approve bill to authorize, H50-160
 - tobacco settlement trust fund, motion to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - transmittal of bills or amendments after deadline, for consideration by receiving house, 40-200
- veto by governor
 - motion to override, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160
 - to override, 40-210
- unanimous vote
 - consent calendar, for eligibility and placement on, H30-50, H40-110
 - speak more than once on debatable motion, H50-80
 - motion to, H50-160
 - speak more than twice, to, S50-30
 - voice vote, S50-180
 - vote, change—motion to, H50-160
- veto by governor, to override, 40-210, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160
- voice vote, S50-180, H50-200

W**Whips**, S10-100, S10-120, H10-10, H10-60, H10-80, H50-220**White paper**, introduced bills, 10-130**Writs and processes**, service, H10-110**Y****Yellow-colored bills**, 40-140