

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 142

2 INTRODUCED BY D. SANDS

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE INTERIM
5 COMMITTEES AND REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE; REQUIRING INTERIM COMMITTEES TO REVIEW
6 THE STATUTORILY ESTABLISHED ADVISORY COUNCILS AND REQUIRED REPORTS OF THEIR
7 ASSIGNED AGENCIES TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RETENTION OR ELIMINATION;
8 REVISING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS
9 5-5-215 AND 5-11-210, MCA."

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11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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13 **Section 1.** Section 5-5-215, MCA, is amended to read:
14 **"5-5-215. Duties of interim committees.** (1) Each interim committee shall:
15 (a) review administrative rules within its jurisdiction;
16 (b) subject to 5-5-217(3), conduct interim studies as assigned;
17 (c) monitor the operation of assigned executive branch agencies with specific attention to the following:
18 (i) identification of issues likely to require future legislative attention;
19 (ii) opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems experienced with the application
20 of the law by an agency; and
21 (iii) experiences of the state's citizens with the operation of an agency that may be amenable to
22 improvement through legislative action;
23 (d) review STATUTORILY ESTABLISHED advisory councils and required reports of assigned agencies to
24 make recommendations to the next legislature on retention or elimination of any advisory council or required
25 reports pursuant to 5-11-210;
26 ~~(d)~~(e) review proposed legislation of assigned agencies or entities as provided in the joint legislative
27 rules; and
28 ~~(e)~~(f) accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon its assignment and relevant
29 to existing or prospective legislation as it determines, on its own initiative, to be pertinent to the adequate
30 completion of its work.

1 (2) Each interim committee shall prepare bills and resolutions that, in its opinion, the welfare of the state
2 may require for presentation to the next regular session of the legislature.

3 (3) The legislative services division shall keep accurate records of the activities and proceedings of each
4 interim committee."

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6 **Section 2.** Section 5-11-210, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"5-11-210. Clearinghouse for reports to legislature.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "report"
8 means a written report required by law to be given to or filed with the legislature.

9 (2) On or before September 1 of each year preceding the convening of a regular session of the
10 legislature, an entity required to report to the legislature shall provide, in writing, to the appropriate interim or
11 statutory committee:

12 (a) the final title of the report;

13 (b) an abstract or description of the contents of the report, not to exceed 100 words;

14 (c) if the report is available electronically, its location on the internet; and

15 ~~(e)(d)~~ a recommendation on how many paper copies of the report, if any, should be provided to the
16 legislature;

17 ~~—— (d) the reasons why the number of copies recommended is, in the opinion of the reporting entity, the~~
18 ~~appropriate number of copies; and~~

19 ~~—— (e) an estimated cost for each copy of the report.~~

20 (3) After considering all of the information available about the report, including the number of legislators
21 requesting copies of the report pursuant to subsection (7), the appropriate interim or statutory committee shall,
22 in writing, direct the reporting entity to provide a specific number of paper copies. The number of copies required
23 is at the sole discretion of the appropriate interim or statutory committee. The appropriate interim or statutory
24 committee may require the reporting entity to mail the copies of the report.

25 (4) The appropriate interim or statutory committee may require that the report be submitted in an
26 electronic format that is usable on the legislature's current computer hardware; or in a microform, ~~such as~~
27 ~~microfilm or microfiche, or in a CD-ROM format, meaning compact disc read-only memory~~ digital form.

28 (5) Costs of preparing and distributing a report to the legislature, including writing, printing, postage,
29 distribution, and all other costs, accrue to the reporting agency. Costs incurred in meeting the requirements of
30 this section may not accrue to the legislative services division.

1 (6) The executive director of the legislative services division shall cause to be prepared a list of all reports
2 required to be presented to the legislature from the list of titles received under subsection (2).

3 (7) The executive director shall, as soon as possible following a general election, ~~mail~~ provide to each
4 holdover senator, senator-elect, and representative-elect a list of the titles of the reports, along with the abstracts
5 prepared pursuant to subsection (2)(b), and the location of electronic copies. ~~The list must include a form on~~
6 ~~which each member or member-elect receiving the list may indicate the report or reports that the member or~~
7 ~~member-elect would like to receive.~~

8 (8) The executive director of the legislative services division shall ~~make~~ provide copies of reports
9 requested pursuant to subsection (7) ~~available~~ to those members or members-elect by either requiring that copies
10 be mailed pursuant to subsection (3) or by delivering copies of the reports during the first week of the legislative
11 session.

12 (9) The executive director of the legislative services division may keep as many copies of a report as are
13 necessary and discard the rest or return them to the agency.

14 (10) The procedure outlined in this section may also be used for a report required to be made to the
15 legislature under the Multistate Tax Compact contained in 15-1-601, the Vehicle Equipment Safety Compact
16 contained in 61-2-201, the Multistate Highway Transportation Agreement contained in 61-10-1101, or the Western
17 Interstate Nuclear Compact contained in 90-5-201.

18 (11) Each report to the legislature required under 17-6-230, 19-2-405, 19-2-407, and 19-20-201 must be
19 provided to the legislative services division as soon as the report is published. The legislative services division
20 shall ensure that legislators are notified pursuant to this section of the report's availability. During the interim, the
21 legislative services division shall ensure that members of the state administration and veterans' affairs interim
22 committee and the legislative finance committee receive copies of the reports."

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