



AN ACT CREATING A COVID-19 RESPONSE STUDY COMMISSION; ESTABLISHING THE MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; PROVIDING FOR CONTINGENT VOIDNESS; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION DATE.

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

**Section 1. Covid-19 response study commission.** (1) There is a covid-19 response study commission composed of 14 members. The commission is allocated to the legislative services division for staffing services and administrative purposes only.

(2) The commission consists of the following members:

(a) three members from the house of representatives, two of whom must be appointed by the speaker of the house and one of whom must be appointed by the house minority leader;

(b) three members from the senate, two of whom must be appointed by the president of the senate and one of whom must be appointed by the senate minority leader;

(c) three members appointed by the governor who represent industries affected by the temporary suspension of statutes, administrative rules, and other regulations during the declared state of emergency in the state in response to the covid-19 pandemic;

(d) three members appointed by the governor who represent state agencies affected by the temporary suspension of statutes, administrative rules, and other regulations during the declared state of emergency in the state in response to the covid-19 pandemic; and

(e) two members of the public, one of whom must be appointed by the speaker of the house and one of whom must be appointed by the president of the senate.

(3) Appointments under subsection (2) must be made within 60 days after [the effective date of this

act].

(4) A vacancy on the commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(5) The members of the commission shall select a presiding officer from among the commission's legislative members and may appoint other officers as considered necessary.

(6) The commission shall meet at least quarterly.

(7) Decisions of the commission must be made by majority vote of the commission members.

(8) Members of the commission must be compensated as provided in 2-15-124 and must be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503. Members of the commission who are full-time salaried officers or employees of the state or of any political subdivision of the state are entitled to their regular compensation. Legislator members must be compensated as provided in 5-2-302.

(9) The legislative services division shall provide staff assistance to the commission, and the commission is encouraged to utilize remote meeting technology when appropriate and available.

(10) The commission shall receive upon request:

(a) an economic impact statement as provided in 2-4-405 from any agency regarding rules that were temporarily suspended or revised during the declared state of emergency in the state in response to the covid-19 pandemic; and

(b) information from the legislative fiscal division, the governor's office of budget and program planning, the department of administration, and any other department or state agency the commission deems necessary.

**Section 2. Covid-19 response study commission duties.** The commission provided for in [section 1] shall:

(1) review all statutes, administrative rules, and other regulations temporarily suspended or revised during the declared state of emergency in the state in response to the covid-19 pandemic;

(2) analyze the effects of suspended statutes, administrative rules, and other regulations temporarily suspended or revised to determine the financial, social, and governmental costs and benefits of their suspension;

(3) if determined through analysis that the suspension of certain statutes, administrative rules, and

other regulations proved beneficial to the state and the citizens of the state, develop legislation to either terminate or amend current statute to reflect those changes that were determined to be beneficial;

(4) complete all required work, including all analysis, reports, and possible legislation, by December 31, 2021;

(5) prepare a report of findings and recommendations including legislation for submission to the 68th legislature in accordance with 5-11-210.

**Section 3. Appropriation.** For the biennium that begins July 1, 2021, there is appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the legislative services division for the purposes of funding the commission and the study as provided in [sections 1 and 2].

**Section 4. Contingent voidness.** (1) Pursuant to Joint Rule 40-65, if [this act] does not include an appropriation prior to being transmitted to the governor, then [this act] is void.

(2) If the appropriation in [section 3] is vetoed, then [this act] is void.

**Section 5. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is effective on passage and approval.

(2) [Section 3] is effective July 1, 2021.

**Section 6. Termination.** [This act] terminates December 31, 2021.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HB 158, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

HOUSE BILL NO. 158

INTRODUCED BY C. HINKLE, J. ELLSWORTH, J. CARLSON, M. BLASDEL, K. BOGNER, B. BROWN, B. GILLESPIE, C. GLIMM, T. MANZELLA, B. MOLNAR, F. ANDERSON, B. BEARD, S. BERGLEE, M. BINKLEY, L. BREWSTER, P. FIELDER, G. FRAZER, S. GALLOWAY, W. GALT, J. GILLETTE, S. GIST, S. GUNDERSON, E. HILL, J. HINKLE, M. HOPKINS, C. KNUDSEN, R. KNUDSEN, D. LENZ, B. LER, D. LOGE, R. MARSHALL, B. MITCHELL, T. MOORE, M. NOLAND, J. PATELIS, B. PHALEN, J. READ, A. REGIER, V. RICCI, L. SHELDON-GALLOWAY, D. SKEES, J. TREBAS, B. TSCHIDA, K. ZOLNIKOV

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