

# RULES OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

## Adopted January 2015 TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 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)

<b>CHAPTER 1 — Administration</b>	
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
<b>CHAPTER 2 — Decorum</b>	
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
<b>CHAPTER 3 — Committees</b>	
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
<b>CHAPTER 4 — Legislation</b>	
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
<b>CHAPTER 5 — Floor Action</b>	
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