

Proposals for Legislation for 2009 Session

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1. *Problem or issue:*

Electronic filing systems were funded by the '07 legislature and several are nearly completed, with the remainder in development. These systems are common in other states, as they allow efficiency and ease in reporting.

Unless their **use is required**, experience in other states shows most candidates and committees will likely continue to file on paper. Paper filing requires time-consuming manual data entry and delays electronic access to reports by as much as a year. With electronic filing, most will use the system and the public will have quick and easy access to the information.

2. *Legislation intends to do what?*

Require mandatory e-filing of required political reporting with a simple opt-out system. At the same time, lift the requirement for concurrent filing of reports with county election administrators in order to ease this burden on local government.

3. *What section of MCA?*

13-37-225, MCA

4. *Funding source?*

No additional funding required

5. *Previously introduced? Model act?*

Not previously introduced. Model language is being researched.