_____ BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY _____

BY REQUEST OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: “AN ACT REQUIRING ONLY EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICES WITH ESSENTIAL ELECTION DUTIES TO BE OPEN ON STATE GENERAL ELECTION DAY; AMENDING SECTION 2-16-117, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

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

Section 1. Section 2-16-117, MCA, is amended to read:

"**2-16-117. Office hours.** (1) Unless otherwise provided by law, state executive branch offices must be open for the transaction of business continuously from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day except on Saturdays, Sundays, and the holidays specified in 1-1-216(1)(a) through (1)(k). State executive branch offices with essential functions directly related to the oversight and running of elections must be open on state general election day. Each office must also be open at other times as the accommodation of the public or the proper transaction of business requires.

(2) The state treasurer may, in the interest of safekeeping funds, securities, and records, close the state treasurer's office from noon to 1 p.m. each day.

(3) The Montana historical society, established in 22-3-101, may be open for public visitation at hours other than those prescribed in this section, including hours during evenings and weekends.

(4) The department of revenue may establish alternative office hours for its offices located in the various counties if:

(a) the office is staffed by four or fewer full-time employees;

(b) the department holds a public hearing on the alternative office hours in the county seat after providing public notice in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county at least 2 weeks prior to the hearing;

(c) the county commissioners of a county in which the department employees are located in a

county building approve the proposed alternative office hours if the alternative hours are outside of the county's normal business hours;

(d) the alternative office hours are adopted by administrative rule; and

(e) the office hours adopted pursuant to subsection (4)(d) are published at least two times a year in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county where the office is located."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2027.

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