

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

2

3 INTRODUCED BY S. FITZPATRICK

4 BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT RULES COMMITTEE

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6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
7 MONTANA ADOPTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE RULES.

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9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
10 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 That the following Joint Rules be adopted:

12 **JOINT RULES OF THE MONTANA**

13 **SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

14 **CHAPTER 1**

15 **Legislator Remote Participation**

16 **1-05. Definitions.** As used in these joint rules, the following definitions apply:

17 (1) "Member" means a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives for the 68th Legislature.

18 (2) "Participating remotely", "remotely present", or "participate remotely" means participating by
19 telephone, teleconference, videoconference, or other means.

20 (3) "Present" means a member was either physically present and participating in the session or
21 remotely present and participating in the session.

22 **1-40. Members physically present or remotely present by electronic means.** (1) The Senate and
23 the House may assemble, convene, and conduct the session with members being either physically present or
24 participating remotely. A member is not permitted to participate remotely unless excluded from physical
25 participation based on a decision of the member's caucus leader pursuant to Joint Rule 1-50.

26 (2) Subject to subsection (3), members who are permitted to participate remotely in the session:

27 (a) may vote on any question or other matter before the Senate or the House, including committees of
28 the Senate or the House;

1 (2) A conference committee, having conferred, shall report to the respective houses the result of its
2 conference. Subject to subsection (4), a conference committee shall confine itself to consideration of the
3 disputed amendment. The committee may recommend:

- 4 (a) acceptance or rejection of each disputed amendment in its entirety; or
- 5 (b) further amendment of the disputed amendment.

6 (3) (a) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs,
7 appointments must be made in the same manner as provided in subsection (1). Subject to subsection (4), a
8 free conference committee may discuss and propose amendments to a bill in its entirety and is not confined to
9 a particular amendment. However, a free conference committee is limited to consideration of amendments that
10 are within the scope of the title of the introduced bill.

11 (b) A free conference committee may not take executive action on an amendment to a bill implementing
12 provisions of a general appropriation act that does not directly and substantively address the subject of the bill.

13 (4) A meeting of a conference committee or free conference committee must be conducted as an open
14 meeting, and minutes of the meeting must be kept. Committees are encouraged to provide at least 24 hours'
15 notice to members of the committee and the public. A committee shall conduct a hearing with the opportunity
16 for public comment for the purpose of commenting on proposed amendments or potential amendments to the
17 bill. Pursuant to Article II, section 9, of the Montana Constitution, prepared amendments for a conference
18 committee or free conference committee must be posted as a hyperlink on the electronic version of the daily
19 agenda announcing the committee along with instructions to click on "Associated Amendments". Subsequent
20 amendments must also be posted on the legislature's webpage that contains the history and status of the bill
21 that is in the committee.

22 **30-40. Conference committee -- enrolling.** A conference committee report must give clerical
23 instructions for a corrected reference bill and for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

24 **30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills.** (1) All general appropriation bills
25 must first be considered by a joint subcommittee composed of designated members of the Senate Finance and
26 Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, and then by each committee separately.

27 (2) Joint meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Claims
28 Committee must be held upon call of the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who is chair of the joint