

HOUSE BILL NO. 169

INTRODUCED BY T. MILLETT, L. SCHUBERT, B. USHER, T. TEZAK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT REGARDING POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR JUDGES AND JUDICIAL CANDIDATES."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Conduct of judges and judicial candidates.** (1) A judge or a judicial candidate may:

(a) attend or purchase tickets for dinners or other events sponsored by a partisan or independent candidate for nonjudicial public office; and

(b) seek, accept, or use endorsements from a political organization or a partisan or independent nonjudicial officeholder or candidate.

(2) If allowed by law to campaign with a party designation, a judge or a judicial candidate may:

(a) act as a leader in or hold an office in a political organization;

(b) make speeches on behalf of a political organization or any partisan or independent nonjudicial officeholder or candidate for public office;

(c) publicly endorse or oppose a partisan or independent candidate for any nonjudicial public office;

(d) solicit funds for, pay an assessment to, or make a contribution to a political organization or to or on behalf of any partisan or independent officeholder or candidate for public office; and

(e) publicly self-identify as a candidate of a political organization.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 3, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 3, chapter 1, apply to [section 1].

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