



AN ACT REVISING THE MONTANA HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION;  
REVISING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION; REVISING THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESSES BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; AMENDING SECTION 22-3-1002, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE.

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

**Section 1.** Section 22-3-1002, MCA, is amended to read:

**"22-3-1002. Montana heritage preservation and development commission.** (1) There is a Montana heritage preservation and development commission. The commission is attached to the department of commerce for administrative purposes only, pursuant to 2-15-121. ~~The commission and the department shall negotiate a specific indirect administrative rate annually. The rate determined by the commission and the department~~ must be reported to the economic affairs interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210.

(2) (a) The commission consists of ~~14~~ 14 members. The members ~~shall~~ must broadly represent the state. ~~Nine~~ Nine members must be appointed by the governor, ~~one member~~ one member must be appointed by the president of the senate, and ~~one member~~ one member must be appointed by the speaker of the house.

(b) If the president of the senate and the speaker of the house do not appoint the members for which they are responsible within ~~6~~ 2 months of a vacancy having occurred in those positions, the members must be appointed by the governor.

(c) The director of the Montana historical society, the director of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, and the director of the department of commerce shall serve as members.

(d) Of the members appointed by the governor ~~When appointing a member~~ under subsection

(2)(a), the governor, the president of the senate, and the speaker of the house shall prioritize selection based on whether the member:

- (i) ~~one member must have extensive~~ has experience in managing facilities that cater to the needs of tourists;
- (ii) ~~one member must have~~ has experience in community planning;
- (iii) ~~one member must have~~ has experience in historic preservation;
- (iv) ~~two members must have~~ has broad experience in business;
- (v) ~~one member must be~~ is a member of the tourism advisory council established in 2-15-1816;
- (vi) ~~one member must be~~ is a Montana historian; ~~and~~ or
- (vii) ~~two members must be~~ is from the public at large.

(3) Except for the initial appointments, members appointed by the governor under subsection (2)(a) shall serve 3-year terms. Members appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house or by the governor under subsection (2)(b) shall serve 2-year terms. If a vacancy occurs, the appointing authority shall make an appointment for the unexpired portion of the term.

(4) ~~—(a) The commission may employ:~~

(i) ~~—an executive director who has general responsibility for the selection and management of commission staff, developing recommendations for the purchase of property, and overseeing the management of acquired property;~~

(ii) ~~—a curator who is responsible for the display and preservation of the acquired property; and~~

(iii) ~~—other staff that the commission and the executive director determine are necessary to manage and operate commission properties.~~

(b) ~~—The commission shall prescribe the duties and annual salary of the executive director, the curator, and other commission staff.~~

(4) In compliance with the state pay plan, the department shall provide all staff and services to the commission that the commission, in conjunction with the department, determines are necessary for carrying out the commission's programs and statutory requirements. The department shall assess the commission for reasonable costs."

**Section 2. Transition.** The reduction of the number of Montana heritage preservation and development commission members from 14 to 9 as provided in [section 1(2)(a)] must occur as the terms of the existing members appointed by the governor end and the members are not reappointed.

**Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
SB 116, originated in the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

SENATE BILL NO. 116

INTRODUCED BY T. TEZAK, B. USHER

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