

**POTENTIAL LEGISLATION FOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP
2009 SESSION**

**Prepared for the Montana Legislative Council
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- **Code Commissioner bill.** Section 1-11-204, MCA, requires the Code Commissioner to prepare and submit to the Legislative Council before November 1 immediately preceding each regular session a report containing recommendations for legislation that will: (1) eliminate outdated laws, obsolete or redundant wording, duplications in law, and laws repealed directly or by implication; (2) clarify existing laws; and (3) correct errors and inconsistencies within the laws. The recommendations contained in the report are incorporated into a bill referred to as the Code Commissioner bill. The Council usually requests that this bill be drafted.

 - **Feed bill.** House Bill No. 1 appropriates funds for the operation of the Legislature. Expenses covered include:
 - ✓ legislative salaries, benefits, and expenses;
 - ✓ staff salaries;
 - ✓ operational costs for Senate and House;
 - ✓ leadership travel (majority and minority);
 - ✓ Legislative Services Division costs for bill printing, legislative publications, information office, Senate and House telephones, and Television Montana (TVMT) broadcasting;
 - ✓ caucus 2010 and startup for 2011 session; and
 - ✓ new legislator orientation and continuing training for all legislators.

 - **Note:** Significant issues related to the feed bill for the 2009 session are discussed in a separate document.

 - **Submission deadline for Legislative Branch budget.** Section 17-7-112, MCA, requires agencies to submit their program budgets to the budget director by September 1 in the year before a regular legislative session. Legislative Branch budgets must be included in the executive budget without change. Under current committee practice, the approving authorities for the Branch (i.e., Legislative Council, Legislative Finance Committee, and Legislative Audit Committee) meet to approve the program budgets during the month of September. Thus, the Branch budget cannot be submitted in compliance the statutory deadline. The Legislative Council may want to request legislation to allow the Branch budgets to be submitted later than September 1 to allow time for the committees to approve them. (SB 37 (Died in process) Requested by Legislative Council, sponsored by Sen. Kelly Gebhardt)

 - **Potential to revisit legislation on Fiscal Note Laws:** SB 66 (Died in process) Requested by Legislative Council and Sponsored by Sen. Wanzenreid.

- **Potential to revisit legislation on interim committees or consider new legislation:** HB 80 (Died in process) Requested by Legislative Council and sponsored by Rep. Hamilton included the splitting of the Local Government part of the Education and Local Government Interim Committee and other changes recommended by the interim committees and staff.

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