

**Synopsis of Election Bills & Resolutions Relevant to
State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee**

2015 Legislative Session

*Prepared by Sheri Scurr, Legislative Research Analyst
Montana Legislative Services Division*

Election Administration

Introduced: 28
Passed and approved: 8

General revision

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| HB 58 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Sec. of State's general revision bill. | Adverse committee report from House State Administration adopted |
| HB 84 | B. Bennett <i>(By Request of SAVA)</i> | Standardize and update certain dates and deadlines for administration of elections. Require most special purpose district elections to be held on school election day. | ENACTED Chapter 49 |

Ballots - general

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| HB 58 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Sec. of State's general revision bill. Repealing 13-1-122, ballot form and content for constitutional convention, and placing that section's language into another section. | Adverse committee report from House State Administration adopted |
| HB 198 | Regier | Clarifying ballot may not state a candidate's credentials or certain other designations | ENACTED Chapter 214 |
| HB 561 | Lamm | Prohibiting a county election administrator from providing a ballot to an elector (not including a military or overseas elector) until residency requirement is verified | Tabled in House State Administration |

Absentee ballots and voting

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| HB 58 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Sec. of State's general revision bill - repealing section authorizing a special county levy to fund an absentee ballot board, which delivers absentee ballots upon special request - election administrators to provide notice of method that will be used to count absentee ballots and the place and time for counting absentee ballots on election day. | Adverse committee report from House State Administration adopted |
| HB 86 | Custer | Absentee ballots to be available 25 days rather than 30 days before an election in even-numbered years | Tabled in House State Administration |
| HB 247 | Custer | Allowing absentee ballots to be prepared for counting 3 business days before the election instead of 1 day before | Tabled in House State Administration |
| HB 283 | Regier | Revising the use of secrecy and signature envelopes to provide one envelope with a detachable flap and not requiring the return of the unvoted party ballot | Tabled in House State Administration |
| HB 342 | B. Bennett | Allowing electronic confirmation of an elector's address for mailing absentee ballots to electors on the biennial absentee voter list | ENACTED Chapter 246 |

Elections by mail

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| HB 70 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Requiring all elections, except school elections, to be conducted by mail and generally revising mail ballot election laws. | Bill withdrawn by sponsor without a hearing. |
| HB 283 | Regier | Revising absentee and mail ballot laws to eliminate the secrecy envelope and require use of a signature envelope with a detachable stub, eliminating the need to return unvoted political party ballots in primary elections, and other revisions. | Tabled in House State Administration |

Election judges

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|--|--|---|
| HB 18 | B. Bennett <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Authorize student election judges | Tabled in House State Administration |
| HB 58 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Sec. of State's general revision bill - defined "election judge", required election judges to receive instruction as approved by the Secretary of State's office | Adverse committee report from House State Administration adopted |
| HB 69 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Update training requirements for election judges | ENACTED Chapter 209 |

Voter registration

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| HB 48 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Establish on-line voter registration | Tabled in House State Administration |
| HB 58 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Sec. of State's general revision bill. Strikes the term "transfer form" for updating a person's voter registration. Voter registration information will be "new" or "updated". | Adverse committee report from House State Administration adopted |
| SB 119 | Kary | Clarifying that the individuals authorized to vote on behalf of a corporation or company that owns property in a local government or special purpose district election also includes a president, vice president, authorized agent, or secretary of a corporation or company. | ENACTED Chapter 121 |

Disabled voters

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| HB 58 | Custer <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Sec. of State's general revision bill. Require that if a disabled voter must vote in a precinct that is not where the voter is registered, an addendum to the poll book in the precinct where the disabled voter must vote shall be printed so that the name of the disabled voter appears on the poll book for that precinct. | Adverse committee report from House State Administration adopted |
| HB 209 | Schreiner | Allowing a disabled voter to use a designated agent to assist in any part of the voter registration and election process and specifying that use of designated agent is a reasonable accommodation that election administrators must honor. | ENACTED Chapter 236 |
| HB 400 | Custer | Allowing a disabled voter to receive an electronic ballot that may be voted electronically, printed, and mailed back in a secrecy envelop. | ENACTED Chapter 247 |

Studies

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|---------|--|----------------------------------|
| HJ 23 | Lamm | Requesting an interim legislative study of Montana's election laws and election process. | Failed 3rd Reading in the Senate |

Misc.

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|-----------|---|---|
| HB 174 | Mortensen | Require election of city court judges | Bill withdrawn by sponsor without a hearing |
| HB 220 | Essmann | Revise recall provisions for local district elected officials | Tabled in House State Administration |

| Bill No. | Sponsor | Short Title | Disposition |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| HB 368 | Hertz | Sunset voter-approved property tax levies after a certain time period | Tabled in Senate Taxation |
| HB 441 | Essmann | Revising the process for and providing for an election concerning the consolidation of counties | Tabled in Senate Local Government |
| HB 469 | B. Bennett | Authorize counties to create an elected office of election administrator as a separate office from the clerk and recorder | Bill withdrawn by sponsor without a hearing. |
| SB 73 | Facey <i>(By Request of SOS)</i> | Requiring a special election to fill a vacancy in a Montana U.S. Senate seat | Tabled in Senate State Administration |
| SB 169 | Hamlett | Requiring a special election to fill a vacancy in a Montana U.S. Senate seat in certain cases | ENACTED Chapter 340 |
| SB 275 | Webb | Constitutional amendment proposal to elect the Board of Public Education | Failed 3rd reading in House |
| SB 279 | Hamlett | Requiring a special election to fill a vacancy in a Montana U.S. Senate seat in certain cases | ENACTED Chapter 302 <i>(Void because SB 169 was enacted)</i> |
| SB 287 | Moore | Require election of Board of Livestock | Tabled in Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation |
| SB 341 | Pomnichowski | Revise election and appointment of conservation district supervisors | Tabled in Senate Local Government |

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