

# SUMMARY OF ENACTED STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS-RELATED LEGISLATION

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE  
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## INTRODUCTION

This document is a summary of the state administration and veterans' affairs-related legislation enacted during the 2025 legislative session. The first section is an overview of the outcome of the bills requested by the 2023-2024 State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee. Enacted legislation is in the subsequent sections. House bills are summarized first in ascending order, then Senate bills in ascending order. Each bill summary includes a hyperlink to the electronic version.

## 2023-2024 STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE BILLS

### ENACTED COMMITTEE BILLS

- **HB 85 (Ch. 636) – Reinstating former employer contributions for JRS, HPORS, SRS, GWPORS**
  - Repeals the actuarially determined employer contribution (ADEC) model for HPORS, SRS, GWPORS and reinstated static employer contribution rates
  - Reinstates statutory appropriation for HPORS
  - Implements 0% employer contribution rate for JRS
  - Includes OTO appropriations for HPORS to backfill employer contributions
- **SB 10 (Ch. 180) – Extending onsite inspection timelines during state of emergency**
  - Extends timeframe for onsite inspections and recommendations when the governor declares a state of emergency
- **SB 11 (Ch. 225) – Revise local government ballot issue laws**
  - Revises process for local government ballot issues to align with the process for statewide initiatives
- **SB 25 (Ch. 541) – Revise election laws regarding disclosure requirements for the use of AI in Elections**
  - Prohibits use of deepfakes in election and electioneering communications within 60 days of the initiation of voting in an election without a disclosure statement
  - Provides for injunctive and civil relief and penalties
- **SB 56 (Ch. 546) – Supplemental employer contribution for PERS, HPORS, SRS, GWPORS**
  - Provides incremental supplemental employer contribution for PERS, HPORS, SRS, and GWPORS

### COMMITTEE BILLS THAT FAILED TO PASS OR WERE VETOED

- **SB 7 – Repeal of retirement criteria change for HPORS and SRS**
  - Repealed retirement criteria change implemented in HB 569 (2023)
  - *Status: Vetoed by Governor*

- **SB 8 – Allowing online voter registration**
  - Allowed an online voter registration system
  - *Status: Tabled in Senate Committee*

## ELECTIONS

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### BALLOT ISSUES

- **HB 201 (Ch. 239) – Require disclosure of paid signature gatherers for initiatives**
  - Requires paid signature gatherers to verbally disclose their first name, the state in which they legally reside, and their status as a paid signature gatherer. Also requires them to wear a name badge that includes this information and their full first name and last initial.
- **HB 818 (Ch. 730) – Ban foreign funding for ballot measures**
  - Prohibits foreign nationals from interfering in statewide ballot issues through contributions, expenditures, or other means
- **SB 226 (Ch. 590) – Require petition submittals to be dropped off within a specific timeframe**
  - Provides deadlines for petition signature submittals

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- **HB 39 (Ch. 16) – Repeal law disallowing parties from contributing to judicial candidates**
  - Requested by the Senate Select Committee on Judicial Oversight and Reform
  - Allows political parties to contribute to judicial candidates by repealing 13-35-231, MCA
- **HB 455 (Ch. 293) – Revise election laws related to COPP deadlines for municipal candidates**
  - Makes the deadline for COPP notification for municipal candidates 6 days earlier
- **HB 759 (Ch. 526) – Revise campaign finance laws**
  - Revises limitations on limited liability company and partnership contributions to candidates
- **HB 770 (Ch. 722) – Revise candidate campaign finance reporting laws**
  - Requires candidates to file campaign finance reports even if they have no contributions or expenditures to report
  - Prohibits a candidate's name from appearing on the ballot if they do not meet reporting requirements
- **HB 917 (Ch. 753) – Revise campaign finance laws**
  - Revises the definition of a political committee
  - Allows non-Montana residents to sign incidental committee reports in certain circumstances

### CANVASSING AND VOTE COUNT PROCEDURES

- **SB 57 (Ch. 547) – Revise county canvassing processes**
  - Requested by the Senate Select Committee on Elections
  - Revises county canvassing processes to include a comparison of total votes cast to the number of electors and persons who voted and a resolution process for discrepancies

- **SB 58 (Ch. 223) – Revise vote count procedures**
  - Requested by the Senate Select Committee on Elections
  - Requires an investigation and report by the county election administrators in cases of vote count discrepancies
- **SB 440 (Ch. 610) – Revising election laws related to reporting election results**
  - Requires counties to report specific election information within a set timeframe after each election subject to a statewide canvass

## DISTRICTING AND REAPPORTIONMENT

- **HB 711 (Ch. 508) – Prohibit selection of redistricting chair with recent major party contributions**
  - Prohibits the MT Supreme Court from selecting a member who has made a campaign contribution to a major party candidate for state or federal office in the last 10 years

## ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

- **HB 167 (Ch. 73) – Generally revise election laws**
  - Removes requirement to post absentee lists at polling locations
- **HB 207 (Ch. 643) – Revise candidate filing and write-in candidate laws**
  - Adjusts the candidate filing timeline
  - Prohibits unsuccessful primary candidates from pursuing a write-in candidacy for the same office in the general election
  - Requires independent candidates to file a declaration of intent prior to circulating a petition for nomination
  - Decreases the signature percentage required for a third-party or independent candidate petition
- **HB 293 (Ch. 251) – Revise election administrator laws**
  - Requires appointed election administrators to report directly to the governing body of the county
- **HB 380 (Ch. 267) – Revise meeting date for presidential electors to align with federal law**
  - Changes meeting date for presidential electors to align with changes to federal law
- **HB 527 (Ch. 689) – Revising the process for written plans of conduct for mail elections**
  - Revises the process for written plans of conduct for mail elections and requires the plans to be posted on county or school district election websites
- **SB 115 (Ch. 218) – Revise election laws related to public notices**
  - Extends the timeframe for election-related public notices from 10 days to 12 days
- **SB 242 (Ch. 214) – Revise election laws related to ballot form and uniformity**
  - Requires the words “official ballot” be printed on each ballot rather than hand-stamped
- **SB 360 (Ch. 390) – Revise election laws related to definitions**
  - Adds and revises election-related definitions
- **SB 498 (Ch. 411) – Revise election laws related to preparation procedures for primary elections**
  - Removes requirement that primary ballots be counted by party in machine-count counties

## ELECTIONEERING

- **SB 105 (Ch. 342) – Generally revise election laws related to electioneering at polling locations**
  - Prohibits electioneering at all locations where an elector may obtain or vote a ballot the time absentee ballots are available until all voting is completed

## PRECINCT COMMITTEES AND CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- **HB 725 (Ch. 715) – Require that individuals may not be a precinct committee representative of more than one political party**
  - Prohibits an individual from being appointed or elected to serve as a committee representative for more than one political party in the same term
- **SB 184 (Ch. 217) – Provide that only contested precinct committee men/women need to be on the primary election ballot**
  - Provides that only a contested precinct committee race needs to be placed on the primary election ballot
- **SB 366 (Ch. 202) – Revise central committee notification process laws**
  - Allows use of email for official committee notifications

## SCHOOL ELECTIONS

- **HB 125 (Ch. 422) – Revise laws related to the conduct of school district elections**
  - Broadens pool of eligible election judges for school district elections
- **HB 406 (Ch. 652) – Revise election laws related to school election deadlines**
  - Revises some school election deadlines to align with local government election deadlines

## STUDY RESOLUTIONS

- **HJ 48 – Interim study on moving the date of the primary election**
- **SJ 35 – Interim study of voter list maintenance and integrity**

## VOTER ID AND REGISTRATION

- **HB 179 (Ch. 191) – Revise election laws related to inactive voter status**
  - Clarifies that an inactive voter may not be moved to the active list solely by signing a petition for a statewide ballot issue
- **HB 193 (Ch. 238) – Require signature for voter registration cancellation**
  - Adds requirement that a written request for cancellation from an elector must be signed
- **HB 248 (Ch. 184) – Revise election laws related to voter cancellation**
  - Allows cancellation of an elector if their death is reported through any kind of obituary rather than through a newspaper obituary
- **HB 413 (Ch. 278) – Revise election laws regarding residency**
  - Clarifies voter registration eligibility for temporary residents

- **HB 423 (Ch. 281) – Revise election laws related to active and inactive voter lists**
  - Provides the Secretary of State with rulemaking authority to determine a process for provisionally registered electors
- **HB 719 (Ch. 472) – Revise election laws related to an elector's date of birth**
  - Requires electors to provide their date of birth when registering to vote
  - Requires absentee voters to include their date of birth on the signature envelope when returning their ballot
- **SB 276 (Ch. 381) – Generally revise voter identification laws**
  - Revises identification requirements for voting and provisional voting
- **SB 490 (Ch. 409) – Revise election laws regarding late registration**
  - Revising the dates for late registration

## MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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### MILITARY AFFAIRS

- **HB 53 (Ch. 78) – Revise law allowing for troop labor to execute projects**
  - Provides exemption from traditional bidding processes for military personnel in training assignments to construct facilities at a military post or training lands
- **HB 66 (Ch. 28) – Adopt most recent federal military codes and regulations**
  - Requested by the Department of Military Affairs
  - Adopts the most recent federal military laws, regulations, and codes applicable to the Montana National Guard
- **HB 72 (Ch. 29) – Revise enlisted militia compensation for SAD**
  - Requested by the Department of Military Affairs
  - Removes the 15-day limitation for enlisted members when called into state active duty (SAD)
- **SR 83 – Confirm governor's appointee for director of the department of military affairs**
  - Confirms appointment of Major General J. Peter Hronek as the Director of the Department of Military Affairs and the Adjutant General
- **SJ 20 – Joint resolution recognizing the military service of Montanans in World War II**
  - Recognizes the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the Montanans who served in World War II

### VETERANS' AFFAIRS

- **HB 81 (Ch. 41) – Revise law to change supervision of veterans' affairs division administrator**
  - Requested by the Department of Military Affairs
  - Moves direct supervision of the veterans' affairs division administrator from the Board of Veterans' Affairs to the Director of the Department of Military Affairs

- **HB 566 (Ch. 491) – Generally revise decennial veteran study laws**
  - Moves responsibility of the study from DPHHS to MVAD
  - Requires stakeholder input and the preparation of a budget proposal and project timeline
- **SR 61 – Confirm governor’s appointee for the board of veterans’ affairs**
  - Confirms appointment of Richard Klose of Laurel, MT to the board
- **SR 62 – Confirm governor’s appointee for the board of veterans’ affairs**
  - Confirms appointment of Michael Stone of Bigfork, MT to the board
- **SR 63 – Confirm governor’s appointee for the board of veterans’ affairs**
  - Confirms appointment of Kurt Nelson of Scobey, MT to the board
- **SR 72 – Confirm governor’s appointee for the board of veterans’ affairs**
  - Confirms appointment of Jen Dalrymple of Townsend, MT to the board
- **SR 73 – Confirm governor’s appointee for the board of veterans’ affairs**
  - Confirms appointment of Chauncey Parker of Box Elder, MT to the board
- **SR 74 – Confirm governor’s appointee for the board of veterans’ affairs**
  - Confirms appointment of Roger Hagan of Great Falls, MT to the board

## PENSIONS

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### PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- **HB 158 (Ch. 132) – Revising working retiree provisions under TRS**
  - Revises laws related to the re-employment of teachers and other education officials
- **HB 349 (Ch. 443) – Revise TRS laws related to reemployment**
  - Allows TRS retirees to work for OPI in specific circumstances
- **HB 358 (Ch. 448) – Generally revise pension laws related to the VFCA**
  - Increases the monthly benefit to \$200 per month
- **HB 359 (Ch. 449) – Generally revise TRS laws on when retired teachers can return to work after retirement**
  - Allows retired teachers to return to work expressly for the purpose of mentoring new teachers
- **SB 208 (Ch. 152) – Revise definition of “dependent child” in highway patrol, police, and firefighter retirement systems**
  - Revises code to include individuals over the age of 18 in secondary educational institutions
- **SB 316 (Ch. 596) – Revising disability retirement provisions for MPORS and FURS**
  - Revises code related to taxation of disability benefits in MPORS and FURS

## PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

- **HB 62 (Ch. 477) – Generally revise laws related to the administration of MPERA**
  - Requested by the Public Employees' Retirement Board
  - Agency housekeeping bill
- **HB 67 (Ch. 136) – Generally revise laws related to the administration of TRS**
  - Requested by the Teachers' Retirement Board
  - Agency housekeeping bill
- **SR 47 – Confirm governor's appointees for public employees' retirement board**
  - Confirms appointment of Doug Kary of Billings, MT and Dave Galt of Helena, MT to the board.

## STATE ADMINISTRATION

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### BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COUNCILS

- **HB 279 (Ch. 182) – Revise districts for certain appointments**
  - Revises the counties under each district for appointments to the Board of Regents, the Board of Public Education, the Coal Board, and the Hard-Rock Mining Board
- **HB 280 (Ch. 434) – Repeal interagency coordinating council for state prevention programs**
  - Repeals the interagency coordinating council for state prevention programs
- **SB 12 (Ch. 166) – Eliminate board of county printing and transfer duties to the Dept. of Administration**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Eliminates the board of county printing and moves the duties to the Department of Administration

### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND THE LEGISLATURE

- **HB 110 (Ch. 51) – Revise legislative services requirements to provide certain printed session information**
  - Removes requirement that Legislative Services sell certain printed information
- **HB 111 (Ch. 52) – Adopt Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act**
  - Adopts the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act
- **HB 112 (Ch. 53) – Code commissioner bill**
  - Biennial cleanup bill
- **HB 115 (Ch. 54) – Revise Montana code annotated publishing laws related to code commissioner duties**
  - Removes required production of a separate index for the Montana Code Annotated
- **HB 126 (Ch. 232) – Revise legislative oversight of administrative rules and encourage public comment**
  - Requires agencies process for public comment and involvement in the rulemaking process
  - Changes the agency's responsibilities related to primary sponsor notification and comments

- **HB 142 (Ch. 134) – Revise laws relating to interim committees**
  - Clarifies the use of “partisan basis” related to interim committee bill requests
- **HB 348 (Ch. 648) – Revise special session polling laws**
  - Increases the number of legislators needed to trigger a special session poll and adds requirements for the request for a special session
- **HB 539 (Ch. 457) – Revise laws related to veto override polls**
  - Requires the Secretary of State to conduct and publish a daily tally of votes returned in a veto override poll
- **SB 26 (Ch. 60) – Allow legislators to receive mileage reimbursement at IRS mileage reimbursement rates**
  - Allows legislators, jurors, witnesses, county agents, and others using their own vehicles to collect mileage at a rate equal to the IRS mileage allotment for the current year
- **SB 64 (Ch. 159) – Clarifying calculation of legislator compensation and expenses during the interim**
  - Establishes a zone-based system for determining compensation for participation in Interim, Budget, and Administrative Committee meetings, based on the round-trip mileage from a member’s residence to the meeting location
- **SB 75 (Ch. 64) – Revise amendment process for legislation that is subject to a sunset**
  - Provides a procedure for amending a termination date
- **SB 344 (Ch. 388) – Revise process for governor’s veto receipt and delivery to the legislature**
  - Revises the process for what constitutes delivery and receipt of a vetoed bill when the legislature is in session

## PROCUREMENT

- **HB 627 (Ch. 660) – Revise reporting requirements related to public contracts**
  - Required reporting from DOA to LFC on procurement solicitations and contracts
- **SB 77 (Ch. 585) – Require conservation districts to comply with state procurement laws**
  - Requested by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
  - Requires conservation districts to comply with state procurement laws

## STATE AGENCIES AND STATE GOVERNMENT

- **HB 47 (Ch. 419) – Revise state building energy conservation program**
  - Requested by the Department of Environmental Quality
  - Sets a 3% cap for the annual interest rate
  - Removes DEQ authority to issue energy conservation program bonds
- **HB 54 (Ch. 25) – Repeal DLI commissioner signature requirement**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Removes requirement for DLI commissioner’s signature on warrants for payment from the unemployment trust fund



- **HB 61 (Ch. 26) – Revise inter-entity loan process**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Permits federal special revenue funds to have negative cash balances when the agency will be reimbursed by the federal government
- **HB 63 (Ch. 27) – Extend application of bond validating act**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Biennial extension of the bond validating act
- **HB 91 (Ch. 80) – Allow taxpayers to elect to receive electronic correspondence from the department of revenue**
  - Requested by the Department of Revenue
  - Allows taxpayers to opt-in to receive electronic correspondence from DOR
- **HB 100 (Ch. 479) – Generally revise public record laws**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Revises state agency public information request processes
- **HB 203 (Ch. 10) – Establish Montana mining day**
  - Establishes February 9<sup>th</sup> of each year as Montana Mining Day
- **HB 217 (Ch. 241) – Transfer the state building energy conservation program to the Dept. of Administration A&E division**
  - Moves the state building energy conservation program from DEQ to DOA
- **HB 496 (Ch. 309) – Amend laws related to the retrocession of jurisdiction over federal lands**
  - Provides for acceptance of jurisdiction over federal lands used for military purposes
- **HB 562 (Ch. 460) – Eliminate certain agency reports**
  - Eliminates required reports for several state agencies
- **HB 692 (Ch. 661) – Generally revise the SMART Act**
  - Requires state agencies to provide annual plans and adds requirement for inclusion of program-level initiatives in the report
- **HB 834 (Ch. 733) – Create a government evidence and impact commission**
  - Creates the Government Data and Impact Commission; includes membership and duties
- **SB 9 (Ch. 167) – Allow agency cash deposits biweekly**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Allows state agencies to deposit cash up to a certain amount every 14 days instead of weekly
- **SB 29 (Ch. 165) – Allow electronic submission of bonds for state construction projects**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Allows the state to accept electronic bid bonds

- **SB 87 (Ch. 67) – Modify holidays for certain employees and create an annual floating holiday**
  - Removes election day as a holiday for legislative branch employees
  - Creates a floating holiday for legislative branch employees
- **SB 116 (Ch. 766) – Revise the Montana heritage preservation and development commission membership**
  - Revises the membership and processes of the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission
- **SB 224 (Ch. 561) – Create Indigenous Peoples' Day**
  - Adds Indigenous Peoples' Day as an official state holiday
- **SB 246 (Ch. 375) – Provide for Montana First Procurement laws and establish reporting requirements**
  - Establishes reporting requirements for food products procured by governmental bodies
- **SB 303 (Ch. 569) – Require agency reporting on financial assistance to tribes**
  - Requires specific state agencies to submit reports to OBPP on financial assistance provided to tribal entities
  - Requires OBPP to compile the information into a comprehensive report
- **SB 311 (Ch. 570) – Enhance legislative understanding of state-tribal relations**
  - Requires the state director of Indian Affairs to provide information and training to legislators on Indian law, history, and rights
- **SB 564 (Ch. 628) – Revise government transparency laws**
  - Requires the Department of Administration to create and manage a website with information regarding state procurement transactions
- **SR 105 – Confirm governor's appointee for director of the department of administration**
  - Confirms appointment of Misty Ann Giles as the Director of the Department of Administration

## STATE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- **HB 181 (Ch. 18) – Provide authority for patrol officers to make arrests on capitol complex**
  - Extends highway patrol jurisdiction to include the capitol complex
- **HB 819 (Ch. 731) – Revise laws relating to flag displays in and on state buildings and grounds**
  - Prohibits the display of certain flags and banners in and on state buildings and grounds
- **SB 33 (Ch. 164) – State buildings subject to state building review code**
  - Requested by the Department of Administration
  - Transfers authority for plan review, permitting, inspection, and building code enforcement to DLI

## STUDY RESOLUTIONS

- **HJ 42 – Interim study on procurement, no-bid contracts, and transparency on no-bid purchases**