

1 JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

2 INTRODUCED BY \*\*\*\*

3 BY REQUEST OF THE \*\*\*\*

4  
5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
6 MONTANA ADOPTING THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE RULES.

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8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
9 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 That the following Joint Rules be adopted:

11 **JOINT RULES OF THE MONTANA**  
12 **SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

13 **CHAPTER 1**

14 **Legislator Remote Participation**

15 **1-05. Definitions.** As used in these joint rules, the following definitions apply:

16 (1) "Member" means a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives for the 68th Legislature.

17 (2) "Participating remotely", "remotely present", or "participate remotely" means participating by  
18 telephone, teleconference, videoconference, or other means.

19 (3) "Present" means a member was either physically present and participating in the session or  
20 remotely present and participating in the session.

21 **1-40. Members physically present or remotely present by electronic means.** (1) The Senate and  
22 the House may assemble, convene, and conduct the session with members being either physically present or  
23 participating remotely. A member is not permitted to participate remotely unless excluded from physical  
24 participation based on a decision of the member's caucus leader pursuant to Joint Rule 1-50.

25 (2) Subject to subsection (3), members who are permitted to participate remotely in the session:

26 (a) may vote on any question or other matter before the Senate or the House, including committees of  
27 the Senate or the House;

28 (b) have the same privileges, rights, and duties as if the member were physically present, including the

1 days. Consent for adjournment is obtained by having the house wishing to adjourn send a message to the other  
2 house and having the receiving house vote favorably on the request. The receiving house shall inform the  
3 requesting house of its consent or lack of consent. Consent is not required on or after the 87th legislative day.

4 **CHAPTER 30**

5 **Committees**

6 **30-05. Remote and in-person public testimony before a committee.** (1) Except as provided for in  
7 subsection (2), and subject to provisions of H30-60 and S30-80, remote or in-person testimony from  
8 proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a  
9 standing or select committee.

10 (2) If a remote technology system failure prevents a person from providing remote testimony, the  
11 person may submit written electronic testimony for the committee's official record.

12 **30-10. Joint committee chair -- exception.** Except as provided in Joint Rule 30-50 concerning the  
13 joint meetings of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the  
14 chair of the Senate committee is the chair of all joint committees.

15 **30-20. Voting in joint committees -- exception.** (1) Except for Rules Committees and conference  
16 committees, a member of a joint committee votes individually and not by the house to which the committee  
17 member belongs.

18 (2) Because the Rules Committees and conference committees are joint meetings of separate  
19 committees, in those committees the committees from each house vote separately. A majority of each  
20 committee shall agree before any action may be taken, unless otherwise specified by individual house rules.

21 **30-30. Conference committees -- subject matter restrictions.** (1) (a) (i) If either house requests a  
22 conference committee and appoints a committee for the purpose of discussing an amendment on which the two  
23 houses cannot agree, the other house shall appoint a committee for the same purpose.

24 (ii) (A) For Senate legislation, the President shall appoint the primary sponsor to the applicable  
25 requested conference committee.

26 (B) For House legislation, the Speaker shall appoint the primary sponsor to the applicable requested  
27 conference committee.

28 (b) Subject to subsection (4), the time and place of all conference committee meetings must be agreed

1 upon by their chairs and announced from the rostrum. This announcement is in order at any time. Failure to  
2 make this announcement does not affect the validity of the legislation being considered.

3 (2) A conference committee, having conferred, shall report to the respective houses the result of its  
4 conference. Subject to subsection (4), a conference committee shall confine itself to consideration of the  
5 disputed amendment. The committee may recommend:

6 (a) acceptance or rejection of each disputed amendment in its entirety; or

7 (b) further amendment of the disputed amendment.

8 (3) (a) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs,  
9 appointments must be made in the same manner as provided in subsection (1). Subject to subsection (4), a  
10 free conference committee may discuss and propose amendments to a bill in its entirety and is not confined to  
11 a particular amendment. However, a free conference committee is limited to consideration of amendments that  
12 are within the scope of the title of the introduced bill.

13 (b) A free conference committee may not take executive action on an amendment to a bill implementing  
14 provisions of a general appropriation act that does not directly and substantively address the subject of the bill.

15 (4) A meeting of a conference committee or free conference committee must be conducted as an open  
16 meeting, and minutes of the meeting must be kept. Committees are encouraged to provide at least 24 hours'  
17 notice to members of the committee and the public. A committee shall conduct a hearing with the opportunity  
18 for public comment for the purpose of commenting on proposed amendments or potential amendments to the  
19 bill.

20 **30-40. Conference committee -- enrolling.** A conference committee report must give clerical  
21 instructions for a corrected reference bill and for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

22 **30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills.** (1) All general appropriation bills  
23 must first be considered by a joint subcommittee composed of designated members of the Senate Finance and  
24 Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, and then by each committee separately.

25 (2) Joint meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Claims  
26 Committee must be held upon call of the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who is chair of the joint  
27 committee.

28 (3) The committee chair of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee or of the House Appropriations