

1 *Senate* BILL NO. 172
 2 INTRODUCED BY LYNCH
 3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION
 5 37-104.1, R.C.M. 1947, TO REQUIRE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN
 6 HIS SUMMARY OF REFERRED, INITIATIVE, OR CONSTITUTIONAL
 7 AMENDMENT MEASURES, TO INCLUDE AN EXPLANATION OF THE EXACT
 8 MEANING OF A VOTE FOR AND A VOTE AGAINST THE MEASURE."
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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 Section 1. Section 37-104.1, R.C.M. 1947, is amended
 12 to read as follows:

13 "37-104.1. Attorney general's summary of referred or
 14 initiative measures -- statement by secretary of state for
 15 referendum measures -- placement on ballot. The secretary of
 16 state of the state of Montana prior to certifying and
 17 numbering of referendum, initiative or constitutional
 18 amendment to the several counties of Montana as provided by
 19 sections 37-105 and 23-1102 [23-3506] of the Revised Codes
 20 of Montana, 1947, shall transmit a copy of the measure to be
 21 voted upon to the attorney general of Montana. Within ten
 22 (10) days after the measure is filed with him, the attorney
 23 general shall provide and return to the secretary of state a
 24 statement in ordinary plain language explaining in not more
 25 than one hundred (100) words the general purpose of the

1 measure submitted. In the case of referendum measures, the
 2 secretary of state shall prepare a statement setting forth
 3 the vote by which the referendum passed each house of the
 4 legislative assembly. The statement by the secretary of
 5 state shall precede the attorney general's statement on the
 6 printed form. The statement as prepared by the attorney
 7 general, and the statement of the secretary of state for
 8 referendum measures only, shall be in addition to the
 9 legislative title of the measure, the statement of the
 10 secretary of state for referendum measures only and the
 11 statement of the attorney general shall precede the other
 12 title of the measure. In providing the statement, the
 13 attorney general shall give a true and impartial statement
 14 of the purpose of the measure in plain, easily understood
 15 language and in such manner as shall not be an argument or
 16 likely to create prejudice either for or against the
 17 measure. In addition to whatever other explanation the
 18 statement of the attorney general may provide, that
 19 statement shall include an explanation in plain, easily
 20 understood language of the exact meaning of a vote for the
 21 measure and of a vote against the measure."

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