SENATE BILL 112

IN THE SENATE

January 16, 1979		Introduced and referred to Committee on State Administration.
January 23, 1979		Committee recommend bill, do pass.
January 24, 1979		Printed and placed on members' desks.
January 25, 1979		Second reading, do pass.
January 26, 1979		Considered correctly engrossed.
January 27, 1979		Third reading, passed.
	IN THE	HOUSE
January 29, 1979		Introduced and referred to Committee on State Administration.
March 2, 1979		Committee recommend bill, concurred.
March 3, 1979		Second reading, concurred.
March 5, 1979		On motion, referred to Committee on State Administration.
March 8, 1979		Committee recommend bill, concurred.
March 9, 1979		On motion, taken from second reading and referred to Committee on Judiciary.
April 20, 1979		Died in Committee.

7

8

9

10

11

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1	Seneti BILL NO. 1/2
	INTRODUCED BY Ahan
3	BY REQUEST OF THE CODE COMMISSIONER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO GENERALLY REVISE AND CLARIFY THE LAWS RELATING TO ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 13-2-402, 13-13-102, 13-13-104, 13-13-108, 13-15-501, 13-16-301, 13-16-304, 13-16-305, 13-16-307, 13-16-402, 13-16-403, 13-35-227, AND 13-36-211, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 13-2-402, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **13-2-402. Cancellation of registration for other

14 reasons. The registrar shall cancel any registration card:

- (1) at the written request of the person registered;
- (2) if a certificate of the death of any elector is filed or if an elector is reported as deceased by the department of health and environmental sciences in the department's reports submitted to the county under 72-16-217;
- (3) whenever 45 days or more prior to the closing of registration, three qualified registered electors residing within the precinct challenge an elector by filing affidavits giving the name of the challenged elector, his registry number, and his residence, and stating of the

personal knowledge of the affiant <u>that</u> the person registered
does not reside at the place designated on his registration
card:

- (4) whenever the--insenity--of the elector is legally established of unsound mind as established by a court;
- (5) whenever the incarceration of an elector in a penal institution for a felony conviction is legally established; or
- 9 (6) whenever a certified copy of a court order 10 directing the cancellation is filed with the registrar.

11 Section 2. Section 13-13-102. MCA: is amended to read:
12 "13-13-102. Instruction cards and display of official
13 ballots. (1) The registrar shall print on cards instructions
14 to electors on how to vote.

- (2) He shall furnish six cards to the election judges in each precinct and one additional card for each 50 registered electors or fractional part of 50 at the same time ballots are furnished.
- 19 (3) The election judges shall post at least one card
 20 in each compartment provided for the preparation of ballots
 21 and not less than three of the cards elsewhere about the
 22 polling place.
- 23 (4) The cards shall contain, in bold large type:
 - (a) instructions on how to:

15

16

17

18

25

(i) obtain ballots for voting;

S & 11 A INTRODUCED BILL

LC 0024/01 LC 0024/01

- (ii) prepare ballots for deposit in the ballot box;
- 2 (iii) obtain a new ballot in place of one spoiled by
 3 accident; and

- (b) a copy of 13-35-201; 13-35-202tly-t2y-end-t4y+ 13-35-205(1); 13-35-206tly-t2y-end-t0y+-13-35-207(5)y-t0y end-t7; 13-35-211tly-end-t2y; 13-35-214; 13-35-217; and 13-35-218tly-t3y-end-t4y.
- (5) Official ballots provided for in chapter 12 of this title shall be posted in each booth or compartment and in three conspicuous places about the polling place."
- Section 3. Section 13-13-104, MCA, is amended to read:
 #13-13-104. Marking precinct register book before
 elector votes. (1) The election judges at every primary,
 general, or special election shall, in the precinct register
 book, mark e-cross-(*) an **x** upon the line opposite the to
 name of the elector.
- (2) Before an elector is permitted to vote, the election judges shall require the elector to sign his name on the place designated in the precinct register.
- (3) The election judges shall require an elector not able to sign his name to produce two electors who shall make an affidavit before one or more of the election judges in a form prescribed by the secretary of state.
- (4) The affidavit shall be filed by the election judges and returned to the registrar with the returns of the

- election. One of the judges shall write the elector's name, noting the fact of his inability to sign, and the names of the two electors.
- 4 (5) If the elector fails or refuses to sign his name
 5 and, if unable to write, fails to procure two electors who
 6 will take the oath required, he may not vote.
 - (6) Each precinct shall keep a list of persons voting, and the name of each person who votes shall be entered in it and numbered in the order voting. This list is known as the pollbook.
 - Section 4. Section 13-13-108, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-13-108. Aid to disabled elector. (1) The election
 judges shall aid an elector who, because of physical
 disability or inability to read or write, needs assistance
 in marking his ballot.
 - (2) The elector shall be assisted by two jucges who represent different parties. The disabled elector may request that a qualified elector he designates also aid him in voting. The election judges must certify on the official register opposite the disabled elector's name that the ballot was marked with their assistance and the name of any other elector designated. Neither the judges nor a person who aided the elector may reveal information regarding the ballot.
 - (3) The election judges shall require the declaration

-3-

-4-

of disability by the elector to be under oath. They are authorized to administer the oath.

,

Z3

- (4) No elector, other than the one who is unable to vote, may divulge to anyone within the polling place the name of any candidate for whom he intends to vote or ask or receive the assistance of any person within the polling place in the preparation of his ballot.
- (5) Instead of assistance as provided in subsection (2), the elector may request the assistance of any qualified elector whom he designates to the judges to aid him in the marking of his ballot, and the judges must certify on the official register opposite the name of such disabled elector that it was so marked with their the assistance of a designated elector.
- Section 5. Section 13-15-501, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-15-501. State returns, how made and transmitted.

 (1) After a general or special election, the clerk of the board of county canvassers shall make an abstract of the vote for congressional offices, state or district offices voted for in more than one county, members of the legislature, and judges of the district court.
- (2) The clerk shall seal the abstract, endorse it "Election Returns", and immediately send it to the secretary of state by certified or registered mail."
- 25 Section 6. Section 13-16-301, MCA, is amended to read:

- "13-16-301. Application and court order for recount.

 (1) Within 5 days after the canvass of election returns, an unsuccessful candidate for any public office at a general, special, or city election may apply to the district court of the county where the election was held for an order directing the canvassing-body county recount board to make a recount of the votes cast in any or all of the precincts.
- (2) The application shall specify the grounds for a recount and be verified by the applicant that the matters contained in it are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief.
- (3) Within 5 days after filing of the application, the judge shall hear the application and determine its sufficiency.
- (4) If the judge finds there is probable cause to believe that the votes cast for the applicant were not correctly counted, he shall order the board—of county conversers recount hoard to assemble within 5 days after the order is issued at a time and place fixed by the order. The board shall meet and recount the ballots as specified in the order.
- Section 7. Section 13-16-304, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-16-304. Ordering in another judge -- jurisdiction.

 (1) If the judge of the district court of the county in which the election is held is for any reason disqualified.

LC 0024/01

from acting, the judge or a supreme court justice shall order another district judge to hear and determine the application.

Z5

- (2) The district court shall not lose jurisdiction of the case by failure to hear and determine the application within the prescribed time but shall retain jurisdiction until the cause is finally determined and the final count is made by the county recount board of county conversers.*
- Section 8. Section 13-16-305, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-16-305. Limitation of recount to certain
 precincts. (1) If the application asks for a recount in more
 than one precinct but there are not sufficient grounds for a
 recount in all precincts, the court shall order a recount
 only in the precincts for which sufficient grounds are
 stated and shown.
- (2) The <u>county recount</u> board of--convessers shall recount votes only in those precincts and for those offices specified in the court order.
- Section 9. Section 13-16-307, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-16-307. Expenses of court-ordered recount. (1) The

 court in its order shall determine the probable expense of

 making the recount, and the applicant or applicants asking

 for the recount shall deposit with the board the amount

 determined in cash.
 - (2) If the recount shows that the applicant or

- applicants have been elected to the office, the deposit of each applicant shall be returned to him.
- 3 (3) If the recount shows that an applicant has not been elected and the expense of the recount is greater than the estimated cost, the applicant shall pay the excess; but if the expense is less than the cost, the difference shall be refunded to the applicant.
- 6 (4) Members of the conversing county recount board and
 9 their clerks shall be compensated for their time spent in
 10 conversing conducting the recount.
- 11 Section 10. Section 13-16-402, MCA, is amended to read:

Z3

- "13-16-402. Manner of recounting ballots. The <u>county</u>

 <u>recount</u> board of-canvassers in recounting the ballots shall

 count, at the same time, the votes cast in the precincts in which a recount is ordered for the several candidates in whose behalf a recount is ordered in the following manner:
- (1) The registrar shall produce, unopened, unless it is necessary for the registrar to open the package or envelope to secure election materials which have been sealed in the wrong envelope or package, the sealed package or envelope received from the election judges of the precinct or precincts in which a recount is ordered, containing all ballots voted in the precinct or precincts.
- 25 (2) A member of the <u>county recount</u> board of--county

convessers shall open the sealed package or envelope in the presence of the other members, the registrar, and the applicant or applicants seeking the recount.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Я

9

10

11

12

1.3

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- (3) A member of the board shall then remove the ballots from the package or envelope in the presence of the applicant or applicants seeking the recount and the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes by the first canvass.
- (4) One of the members of the board, in the presence and view of the candidates and one other board member, shall read each ballot aloud. As the ballots are read, two clerks shall write the votes cast for each person in each precinct, at full length, on previously prepared tally sheets. The tally sneets shall show the names of the respective candidates; the office or offices for which a recount is made, and the number of each election precinct.
- (5) At the completion of the recount, the tally sheets shall be compared, their correctness ascertained, and the total number of votes cast for each candidate determined.
- (6) If the recount shows the votes for any applicant are more or less than the number shown upon the official returns, the clerk of the board of-cenvessers shall correct the original returns to state the number of votes ascertained by the recount.
- (7) The board of-convessers shall direct the clerk of

- the board to enter the result of the election as determined
- 2 by the recount on the board records.**
- 3 Section 11. Section 13-16-403, MCA, is amended to 4 read:
- 5 "13-16-403. Sealing recounted ballots. When the
- 6 recount in a precinct has been finished, the ballots shall 7 again be sealed in the same package or envelope in the
- 8 presence of the registrar and the members of the county
- 9 recount board of-convessors and shall be delivered to the
- 10 registrar for custody."
- 11 Section 12. Section 13-35-227. MCA, is amended to
- 12 read:
- 13 "13-35-227, Contributions from corporations, public
- 14 utilities, and others. No corporation, bank, savings bank,
- I5 cooperative bank, savings and loan association, trust,
- 16 surety, indemnity, safe deposit, insurance, railroad, street
- 17 railway, telegraph, telephone, gas, electric light, heat,
- 18 power, canal, aqueduct, water, or cemetery or crematory
- 19 company or any company having the right to take or condemn
- 20 land or to exercise franchises in public ways granted by the
- 21 state or by any county, city, or town shall may pay or
- 22 contribute in order to aid, promote, or prevent the
- 23 nomination or election of any person or in order to aid or
- 24 promote the interests, success, or defeat of any political
- 25 partyy or organizationy-or-ballot-issue. No person shall

- 1 may solicit or receive such payment or contribution from
 2 such corporation.
- 3 Section 13. Section 13-36-211, MCA, is amended to 4 read:

- *13-36-211. When nomination or election not to be vacated. Nothing in the third ground of contest specified in 13-36-101(3) is to be so construed as to authorize a nomination or election to be set aside on account of illegal votes, unless it appears either:
- (1) that the candidate or nominee whose right is contested had knowledge of or connived at such illegal votes; or
- (2) that the number of illegal votes given to the person whose right to the nomination or office is contested, if taken from him, would reduce the number of his legal votes below the number of votes given to some other person for the same nomination or office, after deducting therefrom the illegal votes which may be shown to have been given to such other person.
- Section 14. Severability. If a part of this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

-End-

Approved by Committee on State Adminastration

	_ /
1	Senate BILL NO. 1/2
S	INTRODUCED BY The Lang
3	BY REQUEST OF THE CODE COMMISSIONER
4	
5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN AUT TO GENERALLY REVISE AND
6	CLARIFY THE LAWS RELATING TO ELECTIONS: AMENDING SECTIONS
7	13-2-402, 13-13-102, 13-13-104, 13-13-108, 13-15-501,
8	13-16-301, 13-16-304, 13-16-305, 13-16-307, 13-16-402,
9	13-16-403, 13-35-227, AND 13-36-211, MCA.*
10	
11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
12	Section 1. Section 13-2-402. MCA. is amended to read:
13	*13-2-402. Cancellation of registration for other
14	reasons. The registrar shall cancel any registration card:
15	(1) at the written request of the person registered;
16	(2) if a certificate of the death of any elector is
17	filed or if an elector is reported as deceased by the
18	department of health and environmental sciences in the
19	department's reports submitted to the County under
20	72-16-217;
21	(3) whenever 45 days or more prior to the closing of
22	registration: three qualified registered electors residing
2 3	within the precinct challenge an elector by filing
24	affidavits giving the name of the challenged elector, his
25	registry number, and his residence, and stating of the
	regions, memori, and recording or one

1	personal knowledge of the affiant that the person registered
2	does not reside at the place designated on his registration
3	card;
4	(4) whenever the -insenity-of the elector is legally
5	established of unsound mind as established by a court:
6	(5) whenever the incarceration of an elector in a
7	penal institution for a felony conviction is legally
8	established; or
9	(6) whenever a certified copy of a court order
10	directing the cancellation is filed with the registrar.
11	Section 2. Section 13-13-102, MCA, is amended to read:
12	"13-13-102. Instruction cards and display of official
13	ballots. (1) The registrar shall print on cards instructions
14	to electors on how to vote.
15	(2) He shall furnish six cards to the election judges
16	in each precinct and one additional card for each 50
17	registered electors or fractional part of 50 at the same
18	time ballots are furnished.
19	(3) The election judges shall post at least one card
20	in each compartment provided for the preparation of ballots
21	and not less than three of the cards elsewhere about the
22	politing place.
23	(4) The cards shall contain, in bold large type:
24	(a) instructions on how to:
25	(i) obtain ballots for voting;

5

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

LC 0024/01

(ii) prepare ballots for deposit in the ballot box;

7

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

- 2 (iii) obtain a new ballot in place of one spoiled by
 3 actident; and
 - (b) a copy of 13-35-201; 13-35-202(\frac{1}{2}\nu-\text{end-(4}\nu-\text{end-(4}\nu-\text{end-(
 - (5) Official ballots provided for in chapter 12 of this title shall be posted in each booth or compartment and in three conspicuous places about the polling place.**
 - Section 3. Section 13-13-104, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-13-104. Marking precinct register book before
 elector votes. (1) The election judges at every primary.

 general, or special election shall, in the precinct register
 book, mark e-cross-(X) an "x" upon the line opposite the to
 name of the elector.
 - (2) Before an elector is permitted to vote, the election judges shall require the elector to sign his name on the place designated in the precinct register.
 - (3) The election judges shall require an elector not able to sign his name to produce two electors who shall make an affidavit before one or more of the election judges in a form prescribed by the secretary of state.
- 24 (4) The affidavit shall be filed by the election 25 judges and returned to the registrar with the returns of the

- election. One of the judges shall write the elector's name,
 noting the fact of his inability to sign, and the names of
 the two electors.
 - (5) If the elector fails or refuses to sign his name and, if unable to write, fails to procure two electors who will take the oath required, he may not vote.
- 7 (6) Each precinct shall keep a list of persons voting.
 8 and the name of each person who votes shall be entered in it
 9. and numbered in the order voting. This list is known as the
 10 pollbook.**
 - Section 4. Section 13-13-108, MCA, is amended to read:
 "13-13-108. Aid to disabled elector. (1) The election
 judges shall aid an elector who, because of physical
 disability or inability to read or write, needs assistance
 in marking his ballot.
 - (2) The elector shall be assisted by two judges who represent different parties. The disabled elector may request that a qualified elector he designates also aid him in voting. The election judges must certify on the official register opposite the disabled elector's name that the ballot was marked with their assistance and the name of any other elector designated. Neither the judges nor a person who aided the elector may reveal information regarding the ballot.
 - (3) The election judges shall require the declaration

of disability by the elector to be under oath. They are authorized to administer the oath.

q

1.3

Z3

- (4) No elector, other than the one who is unable to vote, may divulge to anyone within the polling place the name of any candidate for whom he intends to vote or ask or receive the assistance of any person within the polling place in the preparation of his ballot.
- (5) Instead of assistance as provided in subsection (2), the elector may request the assistance of any qualified elector whom he designates to the judges to aid him in the marking of his ballot, and the judges must certify on the official register opposite the name of such disabled elector that it was so marked with their the assistance of any qualified elector.
- Section 5. Section 13-15-501, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-15-501. State returns, how made and transmitted.

 (1) After a general or special election, the clerk of the board of county canyassers shall make an abstract of the vote for congressional offices, state or district offices voted for in more than one county, members of the legislature, and judges of the district court.
- (2) The clerk shall seal the abstract, endorse it "Election Returns", and immediately send it to the secretary of state by certified or registered mail."
- 25 Section 6. Section 13-16-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-16-301. Application and court order for recount.

(1) Within 5 days after the canvass of election returns: an unsuccessful candidate for any public office at a general: special: or city election may apply to the district court of the county where the election was held for an order directing the convessing-body county recount board to make a recount of the votes cast in any or all of the precincts.

- (2) The application shall specify the grounds for a recount and be verified by the applicant that the matters contained in it are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief.
- (3) Within 5 days after filing of the application, the judge shall hear the application and determine its sufficiency.
- (4) If the judge finds there is probable cause to believe that the votes cast for the applicant were not correctly counted, he shall order the board—of county cenvessers recount board to assemble within 5 days after the order is issued at a time and place fixed by the order. The board shall meet and recount the ballots as specified in the order.
- Section 7. Section 13-16-304, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-16-304. Ordering in another judge jurisdiction.

 (1) If the judge of the district court of the county in

 which the election is held is for any reason disqualified

LC 0024/01

from acting, the judge or a supreme court justice shall order another district judge to hear and determine the application.

ZZ

- (2) The district court shall not lose jurisdiction of the case by failure to hear and determine the application within the prescribed time but shall retain jurisdiction until the cause is finally determined and the final count is made by the county recount board of county canvassers.
- Section 8. Section 13-16-305, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-16-305. Limitation of recount to certain
 precincts. (1) If the application asks for a recount in more
 than one precinct but there are not sufficient grounds for a
 recount in all precincts, the court shall order a recount
 only in the precincts for which sufficient grounds are
 stated and shown.
- (2) The <u>county_recount</u> board <u>of--cenvossers</u> shall recount votes only in those precincts and for those offices specified in the court order.*
- Section 9. Section 13-16-307. MCA. is amended to read:

 "13-16-307. Expenses of court-ordered recount. (1) The
 court in its order shall determine the probable expense of
 making the recount, and the applicant or applicants asking
 for the recount shall deposit with the board the amount
 determined in cash.
- (Z) If the recount shows that the applicant or

applicants have been elected to the office, the deposit of each applicant shall be returned to him.

- (3) If the recount shows that an applicant has not been elected and the expense of the recount is greater than the estimated cost, the applicant shall pay the excess; but if the expense is less than the cost, the difference shall be refunded to the applicant.
- (4) Members of the convessing county recount board and their clerks shall be compensated for their time spent in convessing conducting the recount.
- 11 Section 10. Section 13-16-402. NCA. is amended to 12 reads
 - "13-16-402. Manner of recounting ballots. The county
 recount board of-convessors in recounting the ballots shall
 count, at the same time, the votes cast in the precincts in
 which a recount is ordered for the several candidates in
 whose behalf a recount is ordered in the following manner:
 - (1) The registrar shall produce, unopened, unless it is necessary for the registrar to open the package or envelope to secure election materials which have been sealed in the wrong envelope or package, the sealed package or envelope received from the election judges of the precinct or precincts in which a recount is ordered, containing all ballots voted in the precinct or precincts.
- 25 (2) A member of the county recount board of-requirely

convessers shall open the sealed package or envelope in the presence of the other members, the registrar, and the applicant or applicants seeking the recount.

- (3) A member of the board shall then remove the ballots from the package or envelope in the presence of the applicant or applicants seeking the recount and the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes by the first canvass.
- (4) One of the members of the board, in the presence and view of the candidates and one other board member, shall read each ballot aloud. As the ballots are read, two clerks shall write the votes cast for each person in each precinct, at full length, on previously prepared tally sheets. The tally sheets shall show the names of the respective candidates, the office or offices for which a recount is made, and the number of each election precinct.
- (5) At the completion of the recount, the tally sheets shall be compared, their correctness ascertained, and the total number of votes cast for each candidate determined.
- (6) If the recount shows the votes for any applicant are more or less than the number shown upon the official returns, the clerk of the board of-convessers shall correct the original returns to state the number of votes ascertained by the recount.
 - (7) The board of-convessors shall direct the clerk of

- the board to enter the result of the election as determined
 by the recount on the board records.**
- 3 Section 11. Section 13-16-403, MCA, is amended to 4 read:
- 5 "13-16-403. Sealing recounted ballots. When the
 6 recount in a precinct has been finished, the ballots shall
 7 again be sealed in the same package or envelope in the
 8 presence of the registrar and the members of the county
 9 recount board of-convessors and shall be delivered to the
 10 registrar for custody."
- 11 Section 12. Section 13-35-227, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-35-227. Contributions from corporations, public utilities, and others. No corporation, bank, savings bank, cooperative bank, savings and loan association, trust, surety, indemnity, safe deposit, insurance, railroad, street railway, telegraph, telephone, gas, electric light, heat, power, canal, aqueduct, water, or cemetery or crematory company or any company having the right to take or condemn land or to exercise franchises in public ways granted by the state or by any county, city, or town shall may pay or contribute in order to aid, promote, or prevent the nomination or election of any person or in order to aid or promote the interests, success, or defeat of any political party, or organization, or ballot-issue. No person shall

- 1 may solicit or receive such payment or contribution from
 2 such corporation.**
- 3 Section 13. Section 13-36-211, MCA, is amended to 4 read:
- wacated. Nothing in the third ground of contest specified in 13-36-101(3) is to be so construed as to authorize a nomination or election to be set aside on account of illegal votes, unless it appear appears either:
 - (1) that the candidate or nominee whose right is contested had knowledge of or connived at such illegal votes; or

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

21 22

Z3

- (2) that the number of illegal votes given to the person whose right to the nomination or office is contested, if taken from him, would reduce the number of his legal votes below the number of votes given to some other person for the same nomination or office, after deducting therefrom the illegal votes which may be shown to have been given to such other person.
- Section 14. Severability. If a part of this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

1	Senate BILL NO. 1/2
_	INTRODUCED BY Hodhams
5	
3	BY REQUEST OF THE CODE COMMISSIONER
4	
5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO GENERALLY REVISE AND
6	CLARIFY THE LAWS RELATING TO ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS
7	13-2-402, 13-13-102, 13-13-104, 13-13-108, 13-15-501,
8	13-16-301, 13-16-304, 13-16-305, 13-16-307, 13-16-402,
9	13-16-403, 13-35-227, AND 13-36-211, MCA.
10	
11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
12	Section 1. Section 13-2-402, MCA, is amended to read:
13	*13-2-402. Cancellation of registration for other
14	reasons. The registrar shall cancel any registration card:
15	(1) at the written request of the person registered;
16	(2) if a certificate of the death of any elector is
17	filed or if an elector is reported as deceased by the
-	department of health and environmental sciences in the
18	
19	department's reports submitted to the county under
20	72-16-217;
21	(3) whenever 45 days or more prior to the closing of
22	registration, three qualified registered electors residing
23	within the precinct challenge an elector by filing
24	affidavits giving the name of the challenged elector, his

registry number, and his residence, and stating of the

personal knowledge of the affiant that the person registered 1 does not reside at the place designated on his registration 2 3 card: (4) whenever the--insenity--of the elector is legally established of unsound mind as established by a court; (5) whenever the incarceration of an elector in a 7 penal institution for a felony conviction is legally established; or 9 (6) whenever a certified copy of a court order directing the cancellation is filed with the registrar. 10 11 Section 2. Section 13-13-102. MCA: is amended to read: 12 *13-13-102. Instruction cards and display of official 13 ballots. (1) The registrar shall print on cards instructions to electors on how to vote. 14 (2) He shall furnish six cards to the election judges 15 in each precinct and one additional card for each 50 16 17 registered electors or fractional part of 50 at the same time ballots are furnished. 18 19 (3) The election judges shall post at least one card 20 in each compartment provided for the preparation of ballots 21 and not less than three of the cards elsewhere about the 22 polling place. 23 (4) The cards shall contain, in bold large type: 24 (a) instructions on how to: 25 (i) obtain ballots for voting;

- (ii) prepare ballots for deposit in the ballot box;
- 2 (iii) obtain a new ballot in place of one spoiled by
 3 accident; and
- 4 (b) a copy of 13-35-201; 13-35-202{\frac{1}{2}}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\sigma-\frac{1}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\sigma-\frac{1}{2}\

R

Z3

- (5) Official ballots provided for in chapter 12 of this title shall be posted in each booth or compartment and in three conspicuous places about the polling place.**
- Section 3. Section 13-13-104. MCA. is amended to read:
 #13-13-104. Marking precinct register book before
 elector votes. (1) The election judges at every primary.
 general. or special election shall. in the precinct register
 book. mark e-cross-(#) an .** upon the line opposite the to
 name of the elector.
- (2) Before an elector is permitted to vote, the election judges shall require the elector to sign his name on the place designated in the precinct register.
- (3) The election judges shall require an elector not able to sign his name to produce two electors who shall make an affidavit before one or more of the election judges in a form prescribed by the secretary of state.
- 24 (4) The affidavit shall be filed by the election 25 judges and returned to the registrar with the returns of the

- election. One of the judges shall write the elector's name.
 noting the fact of his inability to sign, and the names of the two electors.
 - (5) If the elector fails or refuses to sign his name and, if unable to write, fails to procure two electors who will take the oath required, he may not vote.
 - (6) Each precinct shall keep a list of persons voting, and the name of each person who votes shall be entered in it and numbered in the order voting. This list is known as the pollbook."
 - Section 4. Section 13-13-108, MCA, is amended to read:
 "13-13-108. Aid to disabled elector. (1) The election
 judges shall aid an elector who, because of physical
 disability or inability to read or write, needs assistance
 in marking his ballot.
 - (2) The elector shall be assisted by two judges who represent different parties. The disabled elector may request that a qualified elector he designates also aid him in voting. The election judges must certify on the official register opposite the disabled elector's name that the ballot was marked with their assistance and the name of any other elector designated. Neither the judges nor a person who aided the elector may reveal information regarding the ballot.
 - (3) The election judges shall require the declaration

of disability by the elector to be under oath. They are authorized to administer the oath.

ź

Z3

- (4) No elector, other than the one who is unable to vote, may divulge to anyone within the polling place the name of any candidate for whom he intends to vote or ask or receive the assistance of any person within the polling place in the preparation of his ballot.
- (5) Instead of assistance as provided in subsection (2), the elector may request the assistance of any qualified elector whom he designates to the judges to aid him in the marking of his ballot, and the judges must certify on the official register opposite the name of such disabled elector that it was so marked with their the assistance of a designated elector.
- Section 5. Section 13-15-501, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-15-501. State returns, how made and transmitted.

 (1) After a general or special election, the clerk of the board of county canvassers shall make an abstract of the vote for congressional offices, state or district offices voted for in more than one county, members of the legislature, and judges of the district court.
- (2) The clerk shall seal the abstract, endorse it "Election Returns", and immediately send it to the secretary of state by certified or registered mail."
- 25 Section 6. Section 13-16-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-16-301. Application and court order for recount.

(1) Within 5 days after the canvass of election returns, an unsuccessful candidate for any public office at a general, special, or city election may apply to the district court of the county where the election was held for an order directing the conversing-body county recount hoard to make a recount of the votes cast in any or all of the precincts.

- (2) The application shall specify the grounds for a recount and be verified by the applicant that the matters contained in it are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief.
- (3) Within 5 days after filing of the application, the judge shall hear the application and determine its sufficiency.
- (4) If the judge finds there is probable cause to believe that the votes cast for the applicant were not correctly counted, he shall order the board—of county conversers recount board to assemble within 5 days after the order is issued at a time and place fixed by the order. The board shall meet and recount the ballots as specified in the order.
- Section 7. Section 13-16-304, MCA, is amended to read:

 "13-16-304. Ordering in another judge -- jurisdiction.

 (1) If the judge of the district court of the county in

 which the election is held is for any reason disqualified

10

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22 ٤3

24

LC 0024/01

1 from acting, the judge or a supreme court justice shall order another district judge to hear and determine the application.

2 3

5

7

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- (2) The district court shall not lose jurisdiction of the case by failure to hear and determine the application within the prescribed time but shall retain jurisdiction until the cause is finally determined and the final count is made by the county recount board of-county-convessors."
- Section 8. Section 13-16-305. MCA. is amended to read: #13-16-305. Limitation of recount certain precincts. (1) If the application asks for a recount in more than one precinct but there are not sufficient grounds for a recount in all precincts, the court shall order a recount only in the precincts for which sufficient grounds are stated and shown.
- (2) The county recount board of--convessors shall recount votes only in those precincts and for those offices specified in the court order."
- Section 9. Section 13-16-307, MCA, is amended to read: *13-16-307. Expenses of court-ordered recount. (1) The court in its order shall determine the probable expense of making the recount, and the applicant or applicants asking for the recount shall deposit with the board the amount determined in cash.
 - (2) If the recount shows that the applicant or

- applicants have been elected to the office, the deposit of 2 each applicant shall be returned to him.
- 3 (3) If the recount shows that an applicant has not been elected and the expense of the recount is greater than the estimated cost, the applicant shall pay the excess; but if the expense is less than the cost, the difference shall be refunded to the applicant.
 - (4) Members of the conversing county recount board and their clerks shall be compensated for their time spent in convessing conducting the recount."
- 11 Section 10. Section 13-16-402. MCA. is amended to 12 read:
 - *13-16-402. Hanner of recounting ballots. The county recount board of-convessors in recounting the ballots shall count, at the same time, the votes cast in the precincts in which a recount is ordered for the several candidates in whose behalf a recount is ordered in the following manner:
 - (1) The registrar shall produce, unopened, unless it is necessary for the registrar to open the package or envelope to secure election materials which have been sealed in the wrong envelope or package, the sealed package or envelope received from the election judges of the precinct or precincts in which a recount is ordered, containing all ballots voted in the precinct or precincts.
- 25 (2) A member of the county recount board of -county

conversers shall open the sealed package or envelope in the presence of the other members, the registrar, and the applicant or applicants seeking the recount.

- (3) A member of the board shall then remove the ballots from the package or envelope in the presence of the applicant or applicants seeking the recount and the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes by the first canvasse
- (4) One of the members of the board, in the presence and view of the candidates and one other board member, shall read each ballot aloud. As the ballots are read, two clerks shall write the votes cast for each person in each precinct, at full length, on previously prepared tally sheets. The tally sheets shall show the names of the respective candidates, the office or offices for which a recount is made, and the number of each election precinct.
- (5) At the completion of the recount, the tally sheets shall be compared, their correctness ascertained, and the total number of votes cast for each candidate determined.
- (6) If the recount shows the votes for any applicant are more or less than the number shown upon the official returns, the clerk of the board of-convessors shall correct the original returns to state the number of votes ascertained by the recount.
 - (7) The board of-convessers shall direct the clerk of

- the board to enter the result of the election as determined by the recount on the board records.
- 3 Section 11. Section 13-16-403, MCA, is amended to 4 read:
- 5 "13-16-403. Sealing recounted ballots. When the
 6 recount in a precinct has been finished, the ballots shall
 7 again be sealed in the same package or envelope in the
 8 presence of the registrar and the members of the county
 9 recount board of-convessors and shall be delivered to the
 10 registrar for custody."
- 11 Section 12. Section 13-35-227, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-35-227. Contributions from corporations, public utilities, and others. No corporation, bank, savings bank, cooperative bank, savings and loan association, trust, surety, indemnity, safe deposit, insurance, railroad, street railway, telegraph, telephone, gas, electric light, heat, power, canal, aqueduct, water, or cemetery or crematory company or any company having the right to take or condemn land or to exercise franchises in public ways granted by the state or by any county, city, or town shell may pay or contribute in order to aid, promote, or prevent the nomination or election of any person or in order to aid or promote the interests, success, or defeat of any political party, or organization, or bellocious.

- 1 may solicit or receive such payment or contribution from 2 such corporation.**
- 3 Section 13. Section 13-36-211, MCA, is amended to 4 read:
- 5 #13-36-211. When nomination or election not to be 6 vacated. Nothing in the third ground of contest specified in 7 13-36-101(3) is to be so construed as to authorize a 8 nomination or election to be set aside on account of illegal 9 votes, unless it appears either:
- 10 (1) that the candidate or nominee whose right is 11 contested had knowledge of or connived at such illegal 12 votes; or

14

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

Z3

24

- (2) that the number of illegal votes given to the person whose right to the nomination or office is contested, if taken from him, would reduce the number of his legal votes below the number of votes given to some other person for the same nomination or office, after deducting therefrom the illegal votes which may be shown to have been given to such other person."
- Section 14. Severability. If a part of this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

1	SENATE BILL NO. 112
2	INTRODUCED BY GRAHAM
3	BY REQUEST OF THE CODE COMMISSIONER
4	
5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO GENERALLY REVISE AND
6	CLARIFY THE LAWS RELATING TO ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS
7	13-2-402, 13-13-102, 13-13-104, 13-13-108, 13-15-501,
8	13-16-301, 13-16-304, 13-16-305, 13-16-307, 13-16-402,
9	13-16-403. 13-35-227. AND 13-36-211. MCA.*
10	
11	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
12	Section 1. Section 13-2-402. MCA. is amended to read:
13	"13-2-402. Cancellation of registration for other
14	reasons. The registrar shall cancel any registration card:
15	(1) at the written request of the person registered;
16	(2) if a certificate of the death of any elector is
17	filed or if an elector is reported as deceased by the
18	department of health and environmental sciences in the
19	department's reports submitted to the county under
20	72-16-217;
21	(3) whenever 45 days or more prior to the closing of
22	registration, three qualified registered electors residing
23	within the precinct challenge an elector by filing
24	affidavits giving the name of the challenged elector, his
25	registry number, and his residence, and stating of the

1	personal knowledge of the affiant that the person registere
2	does not reside at the place designated on his registration
3	card;
4	(4) whenever theinsenityof the elector is legali
5	established of unsound mind as established by a court:
6	(5) whenever the incarceration of an elector in
7	penal institution for a felony conviction is legall
8	established; or
9	(6) whenever a certified copy of a court orde
10	directing the cancellation is filed with the registrar."
11	Section 2. Section 13-13-102, MCA, is amended to read
12	*13-13-102. Instruction cards and display of officia
13	ballots. (1) The registrar shall print on cards instruction
14	to electors on how to vote.
15	(2) He shall furnish six cards to the election judge
16	in each precinct and one additional card for each 5
17	registered electors or fractional part of 50 at the same
16	time ballots are furnished.
19	(3) The election judges shall post at least one car
20	in each compartment provided for the preparation of ballot
21	and not less than three of the cards elsewhere about th
22	polling place.
23	(4) The cards shall contain. in bold large type:
24	(a) instructions on how to:

(i) obtain ballots for voting;

REFERENCE BILL

SB 0112/02

11

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

SB 0112/02

1	(ii) prepare ballots for deposit in the ballot box;	
2	(iii) obtain a new ballot in place of one spoiled	by
3	accident; and	

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

- (b) a copy of 13-35-201; 13-35-202{1}y-{2}y-end-{4}y 13-35-205f11: 13-35-206f11+-f21+-ond-f81+-13-35-287f51+-f61+ end-+7+; 13-35-211+1+-end--+2+; 13-35-214; 13-35-217; and 13-35-218tity-t3ty-and-f4t.
- (5) Official ballots provided for in chapter 12 of this title shall be posted in each booth or compartment and in three conspicuous places about the polling place."
- Section 3. Section 13-13-104. MCA, is amended to read: *13-13-104. Marking precinct register book before elector votes. (1) The election judges at every primary. general, or special election shall, in the precinct register book+ mark e-cross-(%) an "x" upon the line opposite the to name of the elector.
- (2) Before an elector is permitted to vote, the election judges shall require the elector to sign his name on the place designated in the precinct register.
- (3) The election judges shall require an elector not able to sign his name to produce two electors who shall make an affidavit before one or more of the election judges in a form prescribed by the secretary of state.
- 24 (4) The affidavit shall be filed by the election 25 judges and returned to the registrar with the returns of the

election. One of the judges shall write the elector's name, noting the fact of his inability to sign, and the names of the two electors.

- (5) If the elector fails or refuses to sign his name and, if unable to write, fails to procure two electors who will take the oath required, he may not vote.
- (6) Each precinct shall keep a list of persons voting, and the name of each person who votes shall be entered in it and numbered in the order voting. This list is known as the 10 pollbook."
- Section 4. Section 13-13-108, MCA, is amended to read: 12 *13-13-108. Aid to disabled elector. (1) The election judges shall aid an elector who, because of physical 13 disability or inability to read or write, needs assistance 14 in marking his ballot. 15
 - (2) The elector shall be assisted by two judges who represent different parties. The disabled elector may request that a qualified elector he designates also aid him in voting. The election judges must certify on the official register opposite the disabled elector's name that the ballot was marked with their assistance and the name of any other elector designated. Neither the judges nor a person who aided the elector may reveal information regarding the ballot.
 - (3) The election judges shall require the declaration

SB 0112/02 SB 0112/02

of disability by the elector to be under oath. They are authorized to administer the oath.

я

- (4) No elector, other than the one who is unable to vote, may divulge to anyone within the polling place the name of any candidate for whom he intends to vote or ask or receive the assistance of any person within the polling place in the preparation of his ballot.
- (5) Instead of assistance as provided in subsection (2), the elector may request the assistance of any qualified elector whom he designates to the judges to aid him in the marking of his ballot, and the judges must certify on the official register opposite the name of such disabled elector that it was so marked with their the assistance of a designated elector.
- Section 5. Section 13-15-501. MCA, is amended to read:
 #13-15-501. State returns, how made and transmitted.

 (1) After a general or special election, the clerk of the board of county canyassers shall make an abstract of the vote for congressional offices, state or district offices voted for in more than one county, members of the legislature, and judges of the district court.
- (2) The clerk shall seal the abstract, endorse it "Election Returns", and immediately send it to the secretary of state by certified or registered mail."
- 25 Section 6. Section 13-16-301, MCA, is amended to read:

-5-

*13-16-301. Application and court order for recount.

(1) Within 5 days after the canvass of election returns. an unsuccessful candidate for any public office at a general. special, or city election may apply to the district court of the county where the election was held for an order directing the conversing-body county recount board to make a recount of the votes cast in any or all of the precincts.

- (2) The application shall specify the grounds for a recount and be verified by the applicant that the matters contained in it are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief.
- (3) Within 5 days after filing of the application, the judge shall hear the application and determine its sufficiency.
- (4) If the judge finds there is probable cause to believe that the votes cast for the applicant were not correctly counted, he shall order the board—of county conversers recount board to assemble within 5 days after the order is issued at a time and place fixed by the order. The board shall meet and recount the ballots as specified in the order.
- Section 7. Section 13-16-304. MCA. is amended to read:

 #13-16-304. Ordering in another judge -- jurisdiction.

 (1) If the judge of the district court of the county in

which the election is held is for any reason disqualified

SB 0112/02 SB 0112/02

10

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24

from acting, the judge or a supreme court justice shall order another district judge to hear and determine the application.

1

2

3

5

7

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

- (2) The district court shall not lose jurisdiction of the case by failure to hear and determine the application within the prescribed time but shall retain jurisdiction until the cause is finally determined and the final count is made by the county recount board of-county-convessors."
- Section 8. Section 13-16-305, MCA, is amended to read: "13-16-305. Limitation of recount precincts. (1) If the application asks for a recount in more than one precinct but there are not sufficient grounds for a recount in all precincts, the court shall order a recount only in the precincts for which sufficient grounds are stated and shown.
- (2) The county_recount board of--convessers shall recount votes only in those precincts and for those offices specified in the court order."
- Section 9. Section 13-16-307, MCA, is amended to read: #13-16-307. Expenses of court-ordered recount. (1) The court in its order shall determine the probable expense of making the recount, and the applicant or applicants asking for the recount shall deposit with the board the amount determined in cash.
- (2) If the recount shows that the applicant or

applicants have been elected to the office, the deposit of 1 each applicant shall be returned to him.

- (3) If the recount shows that an applicant has not 3 been elected and the expense of the recount is greater than the estimated cost, the applicant shall pay the excess; but if the expense is less than the cost, the difference shall 7 be refunded to the applicant.
 - (4) Members of the convessing county recount board and their clerks shall be compensated for their time spent in convessing conducting the recount."
- Section 10. Section 13-16-402, MCA, is amended to 11 12 read:
 - #13-16-402. Hanner of recounting ballots. The county recount board of-conversers in recounting the ballots shall count, at the same time, the votes cast in the precincts in which a recount is ordered for the several candidates in whose behalf a recount is ordered in the following manner:
 - (1) The registrar shall produce, unopened, unless it is necessary for the registrar to open the package or envelope to secure election materials which have been sealed in the wrong envelope or package, the sealed package or envelope received from the election judges of the precinct or precincts in which a recount is ordered, containing all ballots voted in the precinct or precincts.
- (2) A member of the county recount board of--county 25

SB 0112/02 SB 0112/02

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

convergers shall open the sealed package or envelope in the ı presence of the other members, the registrar, and the applicant or applicants seeking the recount.

2

3

5

6

7

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- (3) A member of the board shall then remove the ballots from the package or envelope in the presence of the applicant or applicants seeking the recount and the candidate or candidates who received the highest number of votes by the first canvass.
- (4) One of the members of the board, in the presence and view of the candidates and one other board member, shall read each ballot aloud. As the ballots are read, two clerks shall write the votes cast for each person in each precinct. at full length, on previously prepared tally sheets. The tally sheets shall show the names of the respective candidates, the office or offices for which a recount is made, and the number of each election precinct.
- (5) At the completion of the recount, the tally sheets shall be compared, their correctness ascertained, and the total number of votes cast for each candidate determined.
- (6) If the recount shows the votes for any applicant are more or less than the number shown upon the official returns. the clerk of the board of-canvassers shall correct the original returns to state the number of votes ascertained by the recount.
- 25 (7) The board of-convessors shall direct the clerk of

- the board to enter the result of the election as determined 1 by the recount on the board records.*
- Section 11. Section 13-16-403, MCA, is amended to 3 read:
- *13-16-403. Sealing recounted ballots. When the recount in a precinct has been finished, the ballots shall again be sealed in the same package or envelope in the presence of the registrar and the members of the county recount board of-convessors and shall be delivered to the 10 registrar for custody."
- 11 Section 12. Section 13-35-227. MCA. is amended to 12 read:

*13-35-227. Contributions from corporations, public

utilities, and others. No corporation, bank, savings bank,

cooperative bank, savings and loan association, trust, surety, indemnity, safe deposit, insurance, railroad, street railway, telegraph, telephone, gas, electric light, heat, power, canal, aqueduct, water, or cemetery or crematory company or any company having the right to take or condemn land or to exercise franchises in public ways granted by the

state or by any county, city, or town shall may pay or

- contribute in order to aid, promote, or prevent the 22
- nomination or election of any person or in order to aid or 23
- 24 promote the interests, success, or defeat of any political
- 25 partyy or organizationy-or-ballot-issue. No person shall

1 may solicit or receive such payment or contribution from 2 such corporation.**

Section 13. Section 13-36-211. MCA, is amended to read:

5

7

10

12

13

14

16 17

18

19 20

21

22

24

25

*13-36-211. When nomination or election not to be vacated. Nothing in the third ground of contest specified in 13-36-101(3) is to be so construed as to authorize a nomination or election to be set aside on account of illegal votes, unless it eppear appears either:

- (1) that the candidate or nominee whose right is contested had knowledge of or connived at such illegal votes; or
- (2) that the number of illegal votes given to the person whose right to the nomination or office is contested, if taken from him, would reduce the number of his legal votes below the number of votes given to some other person for the same nomination or office, after deducting therefrom the illegal votes which may be shown to have been given to such other person.*

Section 14. Severability. If a part of this act is invalide all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

-End-