HOUSE BILL NO. 60

INTRODUCED BY HARRINGTON

IN THE HOUSE

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JANUARY 3, 1989	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION.
JANUARY 4, 1989	FIRST READING.
JANUARY 5, 1989	ON MOTION, REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TAXATION.
JANUARY 18, 1989	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL DO PASS AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
JANUARY 19, 1989	PRINTING REPORT.
JANUARY 21, 1989	SECOND READING, DO PASS AS AMENDED.
	ENGROSSING REPORT.
JANUARY 23, 1989	THIRD READING, PASSED. AYES, 72; NOES, 24.
	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE.
IN	THE SENATE
JANUARY 25, 1989	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
	FIRST READING.
MARCH 1, 1989	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 3, 1989	SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.
MARCH 6, 1989	THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN. AYES, 43; NOES, 6.

RETURNED TO HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS.

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 11, 1989 RECEIVED FROM SENATE.

SECOND READING, AMENDMENTS

CONCURRED IN.

APRIL 12, 1989 THIRD READING, AMENDMENTS

CONCURRED IN.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

REPORTED CORRECTLY ENROLLED.

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1		#8 BILL NO.	60
2	INTRODUCED BY	Harungten	
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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO SPECIFY QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR; TO MANDATE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY ASSESSORS; TO MANDATE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY ASSESSORS; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 15-1-202 AND 15-8-103, MCA."

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

Section 1. Qualifications for office of county assessor -- forfeiture of office. (1) In addition to the qualifications set forth in 7-4-2201, to be eligible for the office of assessor, a person must, at the time of election or appointment to office, be a high school graduate or must have been issued an equivalency of completion of secondary education as provided for in 20-7-131 or a similar equivalency certification issued by another state or jurisdiction.

- (2) Each assessor, before entering the duties of his office, must:
- 23 (a) take and file with the county clerk the
 24 constitutional oath of office; and
- 25 (b) certify to the county clerk that:

(i)	he	has	satisfactorily	completed	the	assessor
certifica	tion	traini	ing as provided	in [section	31:	or

- (ii) he intends to take the assessor certificationtraining at the next offering.
 - (3) An assessor forfeits his office for failure to take and satisfactorily complete the assessor certification training within 36 months after taking office by election or appointment or for failure to satisfactorily complete annual continuing education as provided in [section 3], unless the board of county commissioners finds that:
- 11 (a) the assessor is excused for reasons beyond his 12 control, including illness, a death in the family, or other 13 good cause; or
- (b) there is no other qualified person available for appointment as assessor.
- Section 2. Purpose. The legislature hereby establishes

 a system of instruction, examination, and certification for

 all county assessors for the following purposes:
- 19 (1) to establish and document the achievement of
 20 competency requirements for county assessors and to assure
 21 that all assessors possess and are able to apply the
 22 knowledge, skills, and abilities required in the daily
 23 performance of assessor duties; and
- 24 (2) to benefit the interests of local government 25 units, property taxpayers, and property tax administrators

statewide by the professional development and increased competency of elected or appointed county assessors.

Section 3. Assessor certification training and continuing education. (1) The department of revenue shall conduct annual assessor certification training and continuing education. The cost of conducting such education must be borne by the department. The department shall pay the mileage, per diem, and salary of each assessor attending and the mileage and per diem of each assessor-elect attending.

- (2) The annual assessor certification training includes:
 - (a) personal property assessment training;
- (b) training in fundamentals of real property appraisal in the course I format of the international association of assessing officers; and
- (c) training in property tax administration, personnel management, fiscal management, public relations, assessor ethics, and related public management principles.
- (3) The annual assessor continuing education must include 18 hours of advanced training covering the subjects described in subsection (2).
- (4) An assessor shall satisfactorily complete 18 hoursof advanced training within a 3-year period.
- 25 (5) The department shall issue an assessor a document

acknowledging that he is a certified assessor upon his satisfactory completion of the training in subsection (2) and 18 months' service as an elected or appointed assessor.

*15-1-202. Enforcement of revenue laws. (1) The department of revenue may direct proceedings, actions, and prosecutions to be instituted to enforce the laws relating to the penalties, liabilities, and punishment of public officials and persons or their agents for failure or neglect to comply with the provisions of the statutes governing the revenue of the state or municipal corporations. The department shall cause complaints to be made against assessors and other public officers to the proper district court for their removal from office for official misconduct, or neglect of duty, or failure of an assessor to comply with the certification or continuing education requirements of [section 3].

(2) The department may require county attorneys to assist in the commencement and prosecution of actions and proceedings in their respective counties for penalties, forfeitures, removals, and punishment for violations of the laws of the state in respect to the assessment of property and other revenue laws or for failure of an assessor to comply with the certification or continuing education requirements of (section 2).

(3) Nothing in this section affects the authority of any other person, public officer, or public body to pursue any other legal process for the removal from office of an assessor who forfeits office for failure to comply with certification and continuing education requirements."

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- 6 Section 5. Section 15-8-103, MCA, is amended to read:
 - #15-8-103. Department to conduct assessing appraisal schools. The department of revenue shall schedule and hold area schools within the state for appraisers and assessors as often as it considers necessary. The costs of such appraisers and assessors attending shall be borne by the state. The department shall notify all assessors and appraisers at least 6 months before such a school is scheduled. All assessors-and appraisers shall attend."
 - Section 6. Extension of authority. Any existing authority to make rules on the subject of the provisions of [this act] is extended to the provisions of [this act].
 - Section 7. Codification instruction. (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 7, chapter 4, part 30, and the provisions of Title 7 apply to [section 1].
- 22 (2) [Sections 2 and 3] are intended to be codified as 23 an integral part of Title 15, chapter 8, part 1, and the 24 provisions of Title 15 apply to [sections 2 and 3].

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB060, as introduced .

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act to specify qualifications for the office of County Assessor; to mandate educational requirements for the certification of county assessors; to mandate continuing education requirements for county assessors.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- 1. Each year of the biennium 60 people will be trained.
- 2. Beginning FY 92, approximately 20 people will be trained every 3 years.
- 3. Training will require 5 nights lodging at \$24.96 per night per person.
- 4. Room and equipment rental will cost \$1500.
- 5. University fees (printing, consulting, salaries, etc.) will cost \$5322.
- 6. Travel costs will be \$2400.
- 7. Meals will cost \$5040.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		FY90				FY91						
Expenditure Impact: Operating Expense	Current La	aw	Prop	osed Law	Dii	ference	Current La	W	Prop	osed Law	Di	fference
General Fund	\$	0	\$	21,750	\$	21,750	\$.	0	\$	21,750	\$	21,750

RAY SHACKLEFORD, BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

DAN W. HARRINGTON, PRIMARY SPONSOR

Fiscal Note for HB060 ,as introduced

RE-REFERRED AND

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE ON TAXATTON

2	INTRODUCED BY HARRINGTON
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4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO SPECIFY
5	QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR; TO MANDATE
6	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY
7	ASSESSORS; TO MANDATE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
8	COUNTY ASSESSORS; AND AMENDING SECTION 15-1-202 AND
9	15-8-103, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN
10	APPLICABILITY DATE."

HOUSE BILL NO. 60

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Qualifications for office of county assessor -- forfeiture of office. (1) In addition to the qualifications set forth in 7-4-2201, to-be-eligible-for the-office-of-assessory--a--person--musty--at--the--time--of election-or-appointment-to-office,-be-a-high-school-graduate or--must--have--been--issued-an-equivalency-of-completion-of secondary-education-as-provided-for-in-20-7-131-or-a-similar equivalency--certification--issued--by--another---state---or jurisdiction-

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22 +2)--Each EACH assessor, before entering the duties of

23 his office, must:

24 (a) take and file with the county clerk the 25 constitutional oath of office; and



- (b) certify to the county clerk that:
- 2 (i) he has satisfactorily completed the assessor
- 3 certification training as provided in [section 3(2)]; or
- 4 (ii) he intends to take the assessor certification
- training at the next offering. 5
- t3)(2) An assessor forfeits his office for failure to
- take and satisfactorily complete the assessor certification
- training within 36 24 months after taking office by election
- 9 or appointment or for failure to satisfactorily complete
- 10 annual continuing education as provided in [section 3],
- 11 unless the board of county commissioners finds that:
- 12 (a) the assessor is excused for reasons beyond his
- 13 control, including illness, a death in the family, or other
- 14 good cause; or

- 15 (b) there is no other qualified person available for
- 16 appointment as assessor.
- 17 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose. The legislature
- 18 hereby establishes a system of instruction, examination, and
- 19 certification for all county assessors for the following
- 20 purposes:
- 21 (1) to establish and document the achievement of
- 22 competency requirements for county assessors and to assure
- 23 that all assessors possess and are able to apply the
- 24 knowledge, skills, and abilities required in the daily
- 25 performance of assessor duties; and

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(2) to benefit the interests of local government units, property taxpayers, and property tax administrators statewide by the professional development and increased competency of elected or appointed county assessors.

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- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Assessor certification training and continuing education. (1) The department of revenue shall conduct annual assessor certification training and continuing education. The cost of conducting such education must be borne by the department. The department shall pay the mileage, AND per diem,-and-salary of each assessor attending and the-mileage--and--per--diem--of each assessor-elect attending.
- 13 (2) The annual assessor certification training 14 includes:
- 15 (a) personal property assessment training;
- (b) training in fundamentals of real property 16 17 appraisal in the course I format of the international 18 association of assessing officers; and
 - (c) training in property tax administration, personnel management, fiscal management, public relations, assessor ethics, and related public management principles.
- 22 (3) The annual assessor continuing education must include 18 hours of advanced training covering the subjects 23 24 described in subsection (2).
- 25 (4) An assessor shall satisfactorily complete 18 hours

- of advanced training within a 3-year period. 1
- (5) The department shall issue an assessor a document 2 acknowledging that he is a certified assessor upon his satisfactory completion of the training in subsection (2) 4 and 18 months' service as an elected or appointed assessor. 5
- Section 4. Section 15-1-202, MCA, is amended to read: "15-1-202. Enforcement of revenue laws. (1) department of revenue may direct proceedings, actions, and prosecutions to be instituted to enforce the laws relating to the penalties, liabilities, and punishment of public 10 officials and persons or their agents for failure or neglect 11 to comply with the provisions of the statutes governing the 12 revenue of the state or municipal corporations. The 13 14 department shall cause complaints to be made against 15 assessors and other public officers to the proper district court for their removal from office for official misconduct, 16 or neglect of duty, or failure of an assessor to comply with 17 18 the certification or continuing education requirements of 19 [section 3].
 - (2) The department may require county attorneys to assist in the commencement and prosecution of actions and proceedings in their respective counties for penalties, forfeitures, removals, and punishment for violations of the laws of the state in respect to the assessment of property and other revenue laws or for failure of an assessor to

comply with the certification or continuing education requirements of [section 2 3].

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- (3) Nothing in this section affects the authority of any other person, public officer, or public body to pursue any other legal process for the removal from office of an assessor who forfeits office for failure to comply with certification and continuing education requirements."
- Section 5. Section -15 8 -103; -MCA; -is -amended -to read:

 "15-8-103; -- Department -- to -- conduct assessing appraisal

 schools; -- The -- department of -- revenue shall -- schedule -- and -- hold

 area -- schools -- within -- the -- state -- for -- appraisers -- and -- assessors

 as-often -- as -- it -- considers -- necessary; -- The -- costs -- of -- such

 appraisers -- and -- assessors -- attending -- shall -- be -- borne -- by -- the

 state; -- The -- department -- shall -- notify -- all -- assessors -- and

 appraisers -- at -- least -- 6 -- months -- before -- such a school -- is

 scheduled; -- All -- assessors -- and -- appraisers -- shall -- attend; "
 - NEW SECTION. Section 5. Extension of authority. Any existing authority to make rules on the subject of the provisions of [this act] is extended to the provisions of [this act].
- NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. (1)
 [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part
 of Title 7, chapter 4, part 30, and the provisions of Title
 7 apply to [section 1].
- 25 (2) [Sections 2 and 3] are intended to be codified as

- an integral part of Title 15, chapter 8, part 1, and the
- 2 provisions of Title 15 apply to [sections 2 and 3].
- NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 4 APPLICABILITY. [THIS ACT] IS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1991, AND
- 5 APPLIES TO AN ASSESSOR WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS ON OR
- 6 AFTER JANUARY 1, 1991.

-End-

HB 0060/03 HB 0060/03

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1	HOUSE BILL NO. 60
2	INTRODUCED BY HARRINGTON
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4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO SPECIFY
5	QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR; TO MANDATE
6	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY
7	ASSESSORS; TO MANDATE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
8	COUNTY ASSESSORS; AND AMENDING SECTION 15-1-202 AND
9	15-8-103, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN
10	APPLICABILITY BATE DATES."
11	
12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
13	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Qualifications for office of
14	county assessor forfeiture of office. (1) In addition to
15	the qualifications set forth in 7-4-2201, to-be-eligible-for
16	the-office-of-assessor;apersonmust;atthetimeof
17	election-or-appointment-to-office;-be-a-high-school-graduate
18	ormusthavebeenissued-an-equivalency-of-completion-of
19	secondary-education-as-provided-for-in-20-7-131-or-a-similar
20	equivalencycertificationissuedbyanotherstateor
21	jurisdiction:
22	(2)Each EACH assessor, before entering the duties of
23	his office, must:

(a) take and file with the county clerk

constitutional oath of office; and

51st Legislature

24

(h)	certify	v to	the	COUNTY	clerk	that
(5)	Cercit	y LO	CHE	Country	CIELK	CHAL.

- 2 (i) he has satisfactorily completed the assessor 3 certification training as provided in [section 3(2)]; or
- 4 (ii) he intends to take the assessor certification 5 training at the next offering.
 - (3)(2) An assessor forfeits his office for failure to take and satisfactorily complete the assessor certification training within 36 24 months after taking office by election or appointment or for failure to satisfactorily complete annual continuing education as provided in [section 3], unless the board of county commissioners finds that:
- 12 (a) the assessor is excused for reasons beyond his
 13 control, including illness, a death in the family, or other
 14 good cause; or
- 15 (b) there is no other qualified person available for 16 appointment as assessor.
- NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose. The legislature hereby establishes a system of instruction, examination, and certification for all county assessors for the following purposes:
- 21 (1) to establish and document the achievement of 22 competency requirements for county assessors and to assure 23 that all assessors possess and are able to apply the 24 knowledge, skills, and abilities required in the daily 25 performance of assessor duties; and

(2) to benefit the interests of local government units, property taxpayers, and property tax administrators statewide by the professional development and increased competency of elected or appointed county assessors.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Assessor certification training and continuing education. (1) The department of revenue shall conduct annual assessor certification training and continuing education. The cost of conducting such education must be borne by the department. The department shall pay the mileager AND per diem, and salary of each assessor attending and the mileage and per diem each assessor-elect attending.

- 13 (2) The annual assessor certification training
 14 includes:
 - (a) personal property assessment training;
 - (b) training in fundamentals of real property appraisal in the course I format of the international association of assessing officers; and
 - (c) training in property tax administration, personnel management, fiscal management, public relations, assessor ethics, and related public management principles.
- 22 (3) The annual assessor continuing education must 23 include 18 hours of advanced training covering the subjects 24 described in subsection (2).
- 25 (4) An assessor shall satisfactorily complete 18 hours

of advanced training within a 3-year period.

(5) The department shall issue an assessor a document acknowledging that he is a certified assessor upon his satisfactory completion of the training in subsection (2) and 18 months' service as an elected or appointed assessor.

Section 4. Section 15-1-202, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-1-202. Enforcement of revenue laws. (1) The department of revenue may direct proceedings, actions, and prosecutions to be instituted to enforce the laws relating to the penalties, liabilities, and punishment of public officials and persons or their agents for failure or neglect to comply with the provisions of the statutes governing the revenue of the state or municipal corporations. The department shall cause complaints to be made against assessors and other public officers to the proper district court for their removal from office for official misconduct, or neglect of duty, or failure of an assessor to comply with the certification or continuing education requirements of [section 3].

(2) The department may require county attorneys to assist in the commencement and prosecution of actions and proceedings in their respective counties for penalties, forfeitures, removals, and punishment for violations of the laws of the state in respect to the assessment of property and other revenue laws or for failure of an assessor to

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HB 0060/03

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1	comply	with	the	certi	fication	or	continu	ing educ	ation
2	requireme	ents o	f [se	ction	<u> 31</u> .				
3	(3)	Noth	ina i	n this	section	affe	cts the	authorit	v of

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(3) Nothing in this section affects the authority of any other person, public officer, or public body to pursue any other legal process for the removal from office of an assessor who forfeits office for failure to comply with certification and continuing education requirements."

Section 5. --Section -15-8-103, -MCA, -is -amended -to --read.

"15-8-103; --Department --to --conduct-assessing appraisal

schools: --The-department-of-revenue-shall-schedule-and--hold

area --schools --within-the-state-for-appraisers-and-assessors

as-often-as--it--considers --necessary --The--costs--of--such

appraisers -- and --assessors -- attending -- shall-be-borne-by-the

state: --The--department -- shall -- notify -- all -- assessors -- and

appraisers -- at--least -- 6 -- months -- before -- such a school-is

scheduled -- All-assessors -- and -- appraisers -- shall -- attend: "

NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. TRANSITION. A PERSON WHO, ON [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT], HOLDS THE OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR FORFEITS HIS OFFICE FOR FAILURE TO TAKE AND SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE THE ASSESSOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AS PROVIDED IN [SECTION 3(2)] WITHIN 24 MONTHS AFTER [THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT] OR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE, WHICHEVER IS LATER, OR FOR FAILURE TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION AS PROVIDED IN [SECTION

3], UNLESS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FINDS THAT:

-5-

1	(1)	THE ASSESS	SOR IS EX	CUSED	FOR	REASONS	BEYOND	HIS
2	CONTROL,	INCLUDING	ILLNESS,	A DEAT	H IN	THE FAMI	LY, OR	THER
3	GOOD CAUS	E; OR						

- 4 (2) THERE IS NO OTHER QUALIFIED PERSON AVAILABLE FOR
 5 APPOINTMENT AS ASSESSOR.
- NEW SECTION. Section 6. Extension of authority. Any
 existing authority to make rules on the subject of the
 provisions of [this act] is extended to the provisions of
 {this act}.
- NEW SECTION. Section 7. Codification instruction. (1)
 [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part
 of Title 7, chapter 4, part 30, and the provisions of Title
 7 apply to [section 1].
- 14 (2) [Sections 2 and 3] are intended to be codified as
 15 an integral part of Title 15, chapter 8, part 1, and the
 16 provisions of Title 15 apply to [sections 2 and 3].
- NEW SECTION. SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

 APPLICABILITY. (1) [THIS ACT] IS EFFECTIVE JANUARY JULY 1,

 19 19917-AND-APPLIES-TO-AN-ASSESSOR-WHOSE-TERM-OP-OPPICE-BEGINS

 ON-OR-APTER-JANUARY-17-1991 1989.
 - (2) [SECTION 1] APPLIES TO:

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- 22 (A) AN ASSESSOR WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS ON OR
 23 AFTER JANUARY 1, 1991; OR
- 24 (B) A PERSON APPOINTED TO FILL THE TERM OF AN ASSESSOR
 25 WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE WOULD HAVE BEGUN ON JANUARY 1, 1991, IF

-6-

1	THE	APPOINTEE	WAS	APPOINTED	BETWEEN	THE	TIME	TAHT	

- 2 ASSESSOR WAS ELECTED BUT PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1991.
- 3 (3) [SECTIONS 2 THROUGH 8] APPLY JULY 1, 1989, AND
- 4 THEREAFTER.
- 5 (4) [SECTION 5] TERMINATES JANUARY 1, 1991.

-End-

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 1, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Local Government, having had under consideration HB 60 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HB 60 be amended and as so amended be concurred in:

Sponsor: Harrington (Walker)

1. Title, line 9. Following: "DATE"

Strike: remainder of line 9 through "DATES" on line 10

2. Page 2, line 8. Following: "36" Strike: "24" Insert: "36"

3. Page 5, line 17 through page 6, line 5. Strike: section 5 in its entirety

Renumber: subsequent sections

4. Page 6, line 18. Following: "JANUARY"
Strike: "JULY"
Insert: "JANUARY"

5. Page 6, line 19. Following: line 18 Insert: "1991."

6. Page 6, line 20 through page 7, line 5.

Following: "1991" on line 20

Strike: remainder of section 8 in its entirety

AND AS AMENDED BE CONCURRED IN

igned: (The M. Harding, Chairman

SENATE

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 60
2	INTRODUCED BY HARRINGTON
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO SPECIFY
5	QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNTY ASSESSOR; TO MANDATE
6	EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY
7	ASSESSORS; TO MANDATE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
8	COUNTY ASSESSORS; AND AMENDING SECTION 15-1-202 AND
9	15-8-103, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN
10	APPLICABILITY DATE DATES."
11	
12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
13	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Qualifications for office of
14	county assessor forfeiture of office. (1) In addition to
15	the qualifications set forth in 7-4-2201, to-be-eligible-for
16	the-office-of-assessor;apersonmust;atthetimeof
17	election-or-appointment-to-office,-be-a-high-school-graduate
18	ormusthavebeenissued-an-equivalency-of-completion-of
19	secondary-education-as-provided-for-in-20-7-131-or-a-similar
20	equivalencycertificationissuedbyanotherstateor
21	jurisdiction.
22	+2)Each EACH assessor, before entering the duties of
23	his office, must:
24 .	(a) take and file with the county clerk the
25	constitutional oath of office; and

1	(b) certify to the county clerk that:
2	(i) he has satisfactorily completed the assessor
3	certification training as provided in [section $3(2)$]; or
4	(ii) he intends to take the assessor certification
5	training at the next offering.
6	(3)(2) An assessor forfeits his office for failure to
7	take and satisfactorily complete the assessor certification
8	training within 36 24 36 months after taking office by
9	election or appointment or for failure to satisfactorily
10	complete annual continuing education as provided in (section
11	3], unless the board of county commissioners finds that:
12	(a) the assessor is excused for reasons beyond his
13	control, including illness, a death in the family, or other
14	good cause; or

appointment as assessor.

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NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose. The legislature hereby establishes a system of instruction, examination, and certification for all county assessors for the following purposes:

(b) there is no other qualified person available for

(1) to establish and document the achievement of competency requirements for county assessors and to assure that all assessors possess and are able to apply the knowledge, skills, and abilities required in the daily performance of assessor duties; and

1 (2) to benefit the interests of local government
2 units, property taxpayers, and property tax administrators
3 statewide by the professional development and increased
4 competency of elected or appointed county assessors.

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- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Assessor certification training and continuing education. (1) The department of revenue shall conduct annual assessor certification training and continuing education. The cost of conducting such education must be borne by the department. The department shall pay the mileage? AND per diem; and salary of each assessor attending and the mileage and per diem each each assessor-elect attending.
- 13 (2) The annual assessor certification training
 14 includes:
 - (a) personal property assessment training;
 - (b) training in fundamentals of real property appraisal in the course I format of the international association of assessing officers; and
- (c) training in property tax administration, personnel management, fiscal management, public relations, assessor ethics, and related public management principles.
- 22 (3) The annual assessor continuing education must 23 include 18 hours of advanced training covering the subjects 24 described in subsection (2).
 - (4) An assessor shall satisfactorily complete 18 hours

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of advanced training within a 3-year period.

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2 (5) The department shall issue an assessor a document
3 acknowledging that he is a certified assessor upon his
4 satisfactory completion of the training in subsection (2)
5 and 18 months' service as an elected or appointed assessor.

Section 4. Section 15-1-202, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-1-202. Enforcement of revenue laws. (1) The department of revenue may direct proceedings, actions, and prosecutions to be instituted to enforce the laws relating to the penalties, liabilities, and punishment of public officials and persons or their agents for failure or neglect to comply with the provisions of the statutes governing the revenue of the state or municipal corporations. The department shall cause complaints to be made against assessors and other public officers to the proper district court for their removal from office for official misconduct, or neglect of duty, or failure of an assessor to comply with the certification or continuing education requirements of [section 3].

(2) The department may require county attorneys to assist in the commencement and prosecution of actions and proceedings in their respective counties for penalties, forfeitures, removals, and punishment for violations of the laws of the state in respect to the assessment of property and other revenue laws or for failure of an assessor to

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H3 60

HB 0060/04

1	comply with the certification or continuing education	1	+++THE-ASSESSOR-IS-EXCUSEDPORREASONSBEYONDHIS
2	requirements of [section 2 3].	2	CONTROL, INCLUDING-ILLNESS, -A-DEATH-IN-THE-PAMILY, -OR-OTHER
3	(3) Nothing in this section affects the authority of	3	GOOD-CAUSE;-OR
4	any other person, public officer, or public body to pursue	4	+2)THERE-IS-NO-OTHER-QUALIFIED-PERSONAVAILABLEPOR
5	any other legal process for the removal from office of an	5	APPOINTMENT-AS-ASSESSOR-
6	assessor who forfeits office for failure to comply with	6	NEW SECTION. Section 5. Extension of authority. Any
7	certification and continuing education requirements."	7	existing authority to make rules on the subject of the
8	Section 5: Section -15-8-103; MCA; -is -amended -to read:	8	provisions of [this act] is extended to the provisions of
9	#15-8-103Departmenttoconduct-assessing appraisal	9	[this act].
10	schoolsThe-department-of-revenue-shall-schedule-andhold	10	NEW SECTION. Section 6. Codification instruction. (1)
11	areaschoolswithin-the-state-for-appraisers-and-assessors	11	[Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part
12	as-often-asitconsidersnecessaryThecostsofsuch	12	of Title 7, chapter 4, part 30, and the provisions i litle
13	appraisersandassessorsattendingshall-be-borne-by-the	13	7 apply to [section 1].
14	state:Thedepartmentshallnotifyallassessorsand	14	(2) [Sections 2 and 3] are intended to be codified as
15	appraisersatleast6monthsbeforesuch a school-is	15	an integral part of Title 15, chapter 8, part 1, and the
16	scheduledAll-assessors-and-appraisers-shall-attend-"	16	provisions of Title 15 apply to (sections 2 and 3).
17	NEW-SECTION: SECTION - 5 TRANSITION: A-PERSON-WHO7-ON	17	NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE
18	{THE-EPPECTIVE-DATE-OP-THIS-ACT},-HOLDS-THE-OPPICE-OF-COUNTY	18	APPLICABILITY. (1) [THIS ACT] IS EFFECTIVE JANUARY JULY
19	ASSESSORPORPEITSHISOPFICEPORPAILURETOTAKEAND	19	JANUARY 1, 1991. 1991, -AND-APPLIES-TO-AN-ASSESSOR-WHOSE-TERM
20	SATISPACTORILYCOMPLETE-THE-ASSESSOR-CERTIFICATION-TRAINING	20	GF-GFFIGE-BEGINS-ON-GR-AFTER-JANUARY-17-1991 19897
21	AS-PROVIDED-IN-{SECTION-3(2)}-WITHIN-24MONTHSAFTER{THE	21	(2){SECTION-1}-APPLIES-TO:
22	EPPEGTIVEDATEOPTHISACT}ORHISAPPOINTMENT-TO-THE	22	(A)AN-ASSESSOR-WHOSE-TERMOPOFFICEBEGINSONOR
23	OPPICE,-WHICHEVER-IS-LATER,-OR-FOR-FAILURE-TO-SATISPACTORILY	23	APTER-JANUARY-17-19917-OR
24	COMPLETE-ANNUAL-CONTINUING-EDUCATION-AS-PROVIDED-IN-{SECTION	24	(B)A-PERSON-APPOINTED-TO-PILL-THE-TERM-OF-AN-ASSESSOR

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-5- HB 60

3+,-UNLESS-THE-BOARD-OF-COUNTY-COMMISSIONERS-FINDS-THAT:

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WHOSE-TERM-OP-OPFICE-WOULD-HAVE-BEGUN-ON-JANUARY-17-19917-IP

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ASS	ESSOR-WAS-ELECTED-BUT-PRIOR-TO-JANUARY-1,-1991-
	<u> </u>
ФНЕ	REAFTER.
	(4){SECTION-5}-TERMINATES-JANUARY-1;-1991:
	-End-

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