

1 SENATE BILL NO. 24

2 INTRODUCED BY SWYSGOOD

3
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE LAWS GOVERNING VOTER INFORMATION
 5 PAMPHLETS TO REQUIRE A VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET TO BE SENT WITH EACH ABSENTEE
 6 BALLOT IF THERE IS A STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUE ON THE BALLOT; REVISING THE TIME FOR
 7 SUBMITTING ARGUMENTS ADVOCATING ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF A BALLOT MEASURE;
 8 REVISING THE TIME FOR PRINTING THE VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET; AND AMENDING SECTIONS
 9 13-13-214, 13-27-406, AND 13-27-410, MCA."

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

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 13 **Section 1.** Section 13-13-214, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"13-13-214. Mailing ballot to elector.** (1) As soon as the official ballots are printed, the election
 15 administrator shall send by mail, postage prepaid, to each elector from whom ~~he~~ the administrator has
 16 received a valid application whatever official ballots are necessary. Ballots ~~shall~~ must be sent immediately
 17 to electors submitting valid requests after the official ballots are printed.

18 (2) The election administrator shall enclose with the ballots a self-addressed envelope for the return
 19 of the ballots. An affirmation in the form prescribed by the secretary of state ~~shall~~ must be printed on the
 20 back of the envelope.

21 (3) The election administrator shall stamp the ballots sent to an absentee elector as provided in
 22 13-13-116.

23 (4) Both the envelope in which the ballot is mailed to an elector in the United States service and
 24 the return envelope ~~shall~~ must have printed across the face ~~such~~ the information and graphics and be of
 25 ~~such~~ the color ~~as may be~~ prescribed by the secretary of state consistent with the regulations established
 26 by the federal election commission, the U.S. postal service, or other federal agency.

27 (5) If the ballots sent to the elector are for a primary election, the election administrator shall
 28 enclose an extra envelope marked "For Unvoted Party Ballot(s)". This envelope may not be numbered or
 29 marked in any way so that it can be identified as being used by any one elector.

30 (6) Instructions for voting ~~shall~~ must be enclosed with the ballots. Instructions for primary elections

1 must include use of the envelope for unvoted ballots. The instructions must include information concerning
 2 the type or types of writing instruments ~~which that~~ may be used to mark the absentee ballot. If a statewide
 3 ballot issue appears on the ballot to be sent to the elector, the election administrator shall include a voter
 4 information pamphlet with the instructions.

5 (7) The return envelope ~~shall~~ must be self-addressed to the election administrator."
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7 **Section 2.** Section 13-27-406, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"13-27-406. Limitation on length of argument -- time of filing.** An argument advocating approval
 9 or rejection of a ballot issue is limited to 500 words and ~~shall~~ must be filed, in typewritten form, with the
 10 secretary of state no later than ~~85~~ 105 days before the election at which the issue will be voted on by the
 11 people. A majority of the committee responsible for preparation ~~must~~ shall approve and sign each argument
 12 filed. Separate signed letters of approval of an argument may be filed with the secretary of state by
 13 members of a committee if necessary to meet the filing deadline."
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15 **Section 3.** Section 13-27-410, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"13-27-410. Printing and distribution of voter information pamphlet.** (1) The secretary of state shall
 17 arrange with the department of administration by requisition for the printing and delivery of a voter
 18 information pamphlet for all ballot issues to be submitted to the people at least ~~90~~ 110 days before the
 19 election at which they will be submitted. The requisition must include a delivery list providing for shipment
 20 of the required number of pamphlets to each county and to the secretary of state.

21 (2) The secretary of state shall estimate the number of copies necessary to furnish one copy to
 22 ~~every~~ each voter in each county, except that two or more voters with the same mailing address and the
 23 same last name may be counted as one voter. The secretary of state shall provide for an extra supply of
 24 the pamphlets in determining the number of voter pamphlets to be ordered in the requisition.

25 (3) The department of administration shall call for bids and contract with the lowest bidder for the
 26 printing and delivery of the voter information pamphlet. The contract must require completion of printing
 27 and shipment, as specified on the delivery list, of the voter information pamphlets by not later than ~~30~~ 45
 28 days before the election at which the ballot issues will be voted on by the people.

29 (4) The county official responsible for voter registration in each county shall mail one copy of the
 30 voter information pamphlet to each registered voter in the county, except that two or more voters with the

1 same mailing address and the same last name may be counted as one voter. The mailing must take place
2 no later than 2 weeks before the election.

3 (5) Ten copies of the voter information pamphlet must be available at each precinct for use by any
4 voter wishing to read the explanatory information and complete text before voting on the ballot issues."

5 -END-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for SB0024, as introduced

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

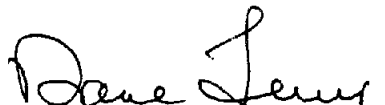
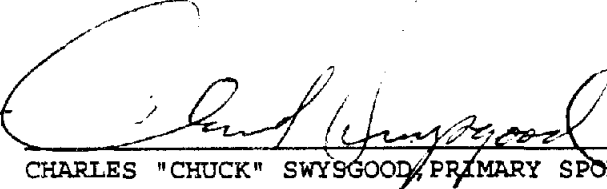
An act revising the laws governing voter information pamphlets to require a voter information pamphlet to be sent with each absentee ballot if there is a statewide ballot issue on the ballot; revising the time for submitting arguments for and against ballot measures and the time for printing the voter information pamphlet.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. This bill has no fiscal impact on expenditures of the Secretary of State's Office or other state agencies.

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

This bill will cause minimal increases in county government expenditures. The increase in expenditures will result from additional postage required to mail the voter information pamphlet to absentee voters with the ballot(s) and voting instructions.

	1-5-95		1-6-95
DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR	DATE	CHARLES "CHUCK" SWYSGOOD, PRIMARY SPONSOR	DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning			

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21 (3) The election administrator shall stamp the ballots sent to an absentee elector as provided in
22 13-13-116.

23 (4) Both the envelope in which the ballot is mailed to an elector in the United States service and
24 the return envelope ~~shall~~ must have printed across the face ~~such~~ the information and graphics and be of
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21 (2) The secretary of state shall ~~estimate~~ the number of copies necessary to furnish one copy to
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4 voter wishing to read the explanatory information and complete text before voting on the ballot issues."

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 4 a voter information pamphlet with the instructions IF THE ELECTOR IS OUT OF THE STATE OR WILL BE
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7 -END-



HOUSE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AMENDMENT

Senate Bill 24
Representative Cobb

February 28, 1995 12:11 pm
Page 1 of 1

Mr. Chairman: I move to amend **Senate Bill 24** (third reading copy -- blue).

Signed: Cobb
Representative Cobb

And, that such amendments to Senate Bill 24 read as follows:

1. Page 2, lines 2 and 3.

Following: "." on line 2

Strike: remainder of line 2 through "elector, the" on line 3

Insert: "The"

2. Page 2, line 4.

Following: "IF"

Insert: ": (a) a statewide ballot issue appears on the ballot
mailed to the elector;

(b) "

3. Page 2, line 5.

Following: "ELECTION"

Insert: ";

Strike: "IF"

Insert: "(c) "

-END-

ADOPT

93-1

REJECT

SB 24

HOUSE

471211CW.Hbk

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5 (A) A STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUE APPEARS ON THE BALLOT MAILED TO THE ELECTOR;

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8 (C) THE ELECTOR REQUESTS A VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET.

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