

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18INTRODUCED BY HARP, Holly

BY REQUEST OF THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REVISING CERTAIN SENATE RULES.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the senate rules be amended as follows:

"S30-60. Committee reports to Senate. (1) Reports of standing committees shall be read on Order of Business No. 2, and no debate may be had on any report unless a minority report has been submitted.

(2) Committee reports may recommend approval, or disapproval, or placement on consent calendar, with or without amendment. They may not be reported to the Senate without recommendation.

(3) Any Senator seeking a reconsideration of the Senate's action on the adoption of a committee report shall do so on Order of Business No. 6 by motion to reconsider. Any Senator may make such motion and need not have voted on the prevailing side. This rule applies notwithstanding any joint rule to the contrary.

(4) The Rules Committee and conference committees may report at any time, except during a call of the Senate or when a vote is being taken."

~~"S30-110. Consent calendar eligibility. (1) To be eligible for the consent calendar, legislation must receive a unanimous vote by the members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended).~~

~~(2) A motion must be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in the committee report.~~

~~(3) Appropriations or revenue bills may not be recommended for the consent calendar."~~

"S30-140. Ethics Committee. (1) The Ethics Committee shall meet only upon the call of the chair after the referral of an issue from the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee ~~shall recommend procedures to the Senate for the referral of matters to the Ethics Committee~~ may be convened to consider the referral of a matter to the Ethics Committee upon the request of a Senator. The Rules Committee shall prepare a written statement of the specific question or issue to be addressed by the Ethics Committee. The issues referred to the Ethics Committee must be related to the actions of a Senator during a legislative session.

1 (2) The matters that may be referred to the Ethics Committee are a violation of:

2 (a) 2-2-103;

3 (b) 2-2-104;

4 (c) 2-2-111;

5 (d) 2-2-112; or

6 (e) any other violation of law by a Senator while acting in the capacity of Senator.

7 (3) If there is a recommendation from the Ethics Committee, the recommendation is made to the
8 Senate."

9 **"S40-40. Reading limitations.** (1) ~~Except for consent calendar bills, every~~ Every bill shall be read
10 three times prior to passage, either by title or by summary of title as provided in these rules.

11 (2) No bill or resolution shall have more than one reading on the same day except the last
12 legislative day.

13 (3) No amendment may be offered on third reading."

14 **"S40-60. Scheduling for second reading.** (1) All bills and resolutions, ~~except those recommended~~
15 ~~for the consent calendar,~~ that have been reported by a committee, accepted by the Senate, and reproduced
16 shall be scheduled for consideration by Committee of the Whole.

17 (2) Until the 50th legislative day, 1 day must elapse between receiving the legislation from printing
18 and scheduling for second reading for consideration by Committee of the Whole.

19 (3) Legislation shall be arranged on the agenda in numerical order unless bills are grouped as
20 companion bills or are placed in order otherwise by the Senate or Committee of the Whole."

21 ~~**"S40-70. Consent calendar procedure.** (1) Legislation reported by committee for placement on the~~
22 ~~consent calendar shall be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically~~
23 ~~marked as a "consent calendar" item.~~

24 ~~(2) Legislation shall be immediately posted (as soon as it is received as a third reading version) on~~
25 ~~the consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of~~
26 ~~Business No. 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the President of the Senate will announce~~
27 ~~consideration of the consent calendar and allow "reasonable time" for questions and answers upon request.~~
28 ~~No debate will be allowed.~~

29 ~~(3) Any three Senators may submit written objections to the Secretary of the Senate, and the~~
30 ~~legislation must then be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading~~

1 agenda.

2 ~~(4) Consent calendar legislation must be added to the end of the third reading agenda and clearly~~
 3 ~~identified as "consent calendar" and voted on individually.~~

4 ~~(5) Consent calendar legislation passed on third reading will then be transmitted to the House of~~
 5 ~~Representatives."~~

6 "S50-20. Orders of business. After prayer, roll call, and report on the journal, the order of business
 7 of the Senate is as follows:

8 (1) communications and petitions;

9 (2) reports of standing committees;

10 (3) reports of select committees;

11 (4) messages from the Governor;

12 (5) messages from the House of Representatives;

13 (6) motions;

14 (7) first reading and commitment of bills;

15 (8) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole);

16 (9) third reading of bills ~~and consent calendar bills;~~

17 (10) unfinished business;

18 (11) special orders of the day; and

19 (12) announcement of committee meetings.

20 To revert to or pass to a new order of business requires only a majority vote. Unless otherwise
 21 specified in the motion to recess, the Senate shall revert to Order of Business No. 1 when reconvening after
 22 a recess."

23 "S50-160. Voting on second reading. (1) On Order of Business No. 8, in addition to other methods,
 24 a recorded vote may be made in the following manner: the chair may call for a voice vote to accept or
 25 reject a question. If the vote is other than unanimous, the chair may ask that the lesser number on the
 26 question indicate their vote by standing. The Secretary will then record the vote of those standing. The
 27 chair may then rule that unless excused those not standing and present have voted on the prevailing side
 28 of the question and that their vote be recorded as such. If there was a unanimous voice vote, all those
 29 present will be recorded as having voted for the question.

30 (2) ~~if~~ Except as provided in subsection (3), if a motion to recommend that a bill "do pass" or "be

1 concurred in" fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill "do not
2 pass" or "be not concurred in", is considered to have passed. If a motion to recommend that a bill "do not
3 pass" or "be not concurred in" fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation
4 that the bill "do pass" or "be concurred in", is considered to have passed.

5 (3) If a motion under subsection (2) fails on a tie vote, the bill remains on second reading."

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-END-

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20 To revert to or pass to a new order of business requires only a majority vote. Unless otherwise
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