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As of: October 21, 2016 (9:07am)

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1                   \*\*\*\* Senate Resolution No. \*\*\*\*

2                   Introduced By \*\*\*\*\*

3                   By Request of the \*\*\*\*\*

4

5 A Resolution of the Senate of the State of Montana adopting the  
6 senate rules.

7

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

10           That the following Senate Rules be adopted:

11                                   **RULES OF THE MONTANA**

12   **SENATE**

13   **CHAPTER 1**

14   **Administration**

15           **S10-10. Officers of the Senate.** The officers of the Senate  
16 are the officers listed and elected in accordance with Title 5,  
17 chapter 2, part 2, MCA.

18           **S10-20. Term of office.** The term of office for the officers  
19 and employees of the Senate established by law is until the  
20 succeeding Legislature is organized. This rule may not be  
21 construed to mean the staff will be full-time employees during an  
22 interim.

23           **S10-30. President, President pro tempore, and other**  
24 **officers.** (1) The Senate shall, at the beginning of each regular  
25 session, and at other times as may be necessary, elect a Senator  
26 as President and a Senator as President pro tempore.

27           (2) The Senate shall choose its other officers and is the

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1 judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of the  
2 Senators.

3 **S10-40. Voting by presiding officer.** Any Senator, when  
4 acting as presiding officer of the Senate, shall vote as any  
5 other Senator.

6 **S10-50. Presiding officer and duties.** (1) The presiding  
7 officer of the Senate is the President of the Senate, who must be  
8 chosen in accordance with law.

9 (2) The President shall take the chair on every legislative  
10 day at the hour to which the Senate adjourned at the last  
11 sitting.

12 (3) The President may name a Senator to perform the duties  
13 of the President when the President pro tempore is not present in  
14 the Senate chamber. The Senator who is named is vested during  
15 that time with all the powers of the President.

16 (4) The President has general control over the assignment  
17 of rooms for the Senate and shall preserve order and decorum. The  
18 President may order the galleries and lobbies cleared in case of  
19 disturbance or disorderly conduct.

20 (5) The President shall sign all necessary certifications  
21 of the Senate, including enrolled bills and resolutions,  
22 journals, subpoenas, and payrolls. The President's signature must  
23 be attested by the Secretary of the Senate.

24 (6) The President shall approve the calendar for each  
25 legislative day.

26 (7) The President is the chief administrative officer of  
27 the Senate, with authority for the general supervision of all

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1 Senate employees. The President may seek the advice and counsel  
2 of the Legislative Administration Committee.

3 (8) The President of the Senate is the authorized approving  
4 authority of the Senate during the term of election to that  
5 office.

6 (9) The President shall refer bills to committee upon  
7 introduction or reception in the office of the Secretary of the  
8 Senate.

9 **S10-60. Succession.** (1) In case of the absence or  
10 disqualification of the President, the President pro tempore of  
11 the Senate shall perform the duties of the President until the  
12 vacancy is filled or the disability removed.

13 (2) Whenever the President pro tempore of the Senate is of  
14 the opposite political party from that of the President, the  
15 following procedure applies:

16 (a) If the President dies while in office, the members of  
17 the Senate have the right to immediately nominate and elect an  
18 acting President of the same party.

19 (b) If the President is absent for 2 or more legislative  
20 days or at any time after the 85th legislative day or at any time  
21 during special session of the Legislature and wants to appoint an  
22 acting President during the President's absence, the President  
23 may do so, or the members of the Senate have the right to  
24 immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the  
25 President's caucus.

26 (c) An acting President of the Senate has the powers of the  
27 President and supersedes the powers of the President pro tempore.

1           **S10-70. President-elect.** The President-elect nominated by  
2 the appropriate party caucus held in accordance with section  
3 5-2-201, MCA, has the responsibility and authority to assume the  
4 duties of President of the Senate.

5           **S10-80. Legislative Administration Committee duties.** (1) The  
6 Legislative Administration Committee shall consider matters  
7 relating to legislative administration, staffing patterns,  
8 budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.

9           (2) The committee has authority to act in the interim to  
10 prepare for future legislative sessions.

11           (3) The committee shall approve contracts for purchase or  
12 lease of equipment and supplies for the Senate, subject to the  
13 approval of the President.

14           (4) The committee shall consider disputes or complaints  
15 involving the competency or decorum of legislative employees  
16 referred to it by the President and recommend dismissal,  
17 suspension, or retention of employees.

18           (5) The chair of the Legislative Administration Committee  
19 may, upon approval of the President, have purchase orders and  
20 requisitions prepared and forwarded to the accounting office in  
21 the Legislative Services Division.

22           **S10-90. Majority Leader.** The primary functions of the  
23 majority leader usually relate to floor duties. The duties of the  
24 majority leader may include but are not limited to:

25           (1) being the lead speaker for the majority party during  
26 floor debates;

27           (2) helping the President develop the calendar;

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1 (3) assisting the President with program development,  
2 policy formation, and policy decisions;

3 (4) presiding over the majority caucus meetings; and

4 (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

5 **S10-100. Majority Whip.** The duties of the majority whip may  
6 include but are not limited to:

7 (1) assisting the majority leader;

8 (2) ensuring member attendance;

9 (3) counting votes;

10 (4) generally communicating the majority position; and

11 (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

12 **S10-110. Minority Leader.** The minority leader is the  
13 principal leader of the minority caucus. The duties of the  
14 minority leader may include but are not limited to:

15 (1) developing the minority position;

16 (2) negotiating with the majority party;

17 (3) directing minority caucus activities on the chamber  
18 floor;

19 (4) leading debate for the minority; and

20 (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

21 **S10-120. Minority Whip.** The major responsibilities for the  
22 minority whip may include but are not limited to:

23 (1) assisting the minority leader on the floor;

24 (2) counting votes;

25 (3) ensuring attendance of minority party members; and

26 (4) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

27 **S10-130. Senate employees.** (1) In addition to the employees

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1 appointed by the President in accordance with section 5-2-221,  
2 MCA, the Senate shall employ staff recommended by the leadership  
3 and the Legislative Administration Committee as necessary to  
4 perform the functions of the Senate.

5 (2) The Secretary of the Senate shall designate a secretary  
6 to take and prepare written minutes of committee meetings for  
7 each standing committee. A committee secretary is immediately  
8 responsible to the chair, but shall work under the overall  
9 direction of the Secretary of the Senate, subject to authority of  
10 the committee chair.

11 (3) The President, majority leader, and minority leader may  
12 each appoint a private secretary.

13 **S10-140. Secretary of the Senate and duties.** The Secretary  
14 of the Senate works under the direction of the President. The  
15 responsibilities of the Secretary of the Senate include:

16 (1) performing the duties prescribed by law or other  
17 provisions of these rules;

18 (2) serving as parliamentary advisor to the Senate;

19 (3) compiling and maintaining the calendar for approval by  
20 the President;

21 (4) keeping the leadership informed on the progress and  
22 workload of the Senate;

23 (5) transmitting bills with appropriate messages to the  
24 House of Representatives as instructed by action of the Senate;

25 (6) keeping and maintaining records of the Senate; and

26 (7) supervision of the Senate employees, except as  
27 otherwise provided.

1           **S10-150. Sergeant-at-Arms duties.** Under the direction of the  
2 President, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

3           (1) maintain order as directed by the President or chair of  
4 the Committee of the Whole;

5           (2) enforce the lobbying rules of the Senate;

6           (3) supervise the employees assigned to the Sergeant's  
7 office;

8           (4) receive, distribute, and maintain supplies, equipment,  
9 and other inventory of the Senate, along with records of purchase  
10 and disposal in accordance with law;

11           (5) perform duties as required by other rules and the  
12 Senate.

13           **S10-160. Legislative aides.** Each Senator may designate one  
14 person of legal age to serve as an aide during the session.  
15 Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the Rules Committee.  
16 The Senator shall register an aide with the Secretary of the  
17 Senate and arrange for the purchase of a name tag with the  
18 Sergeant-at-Arms.

19           **S10-170. Senate journal.** (1) The Senate shall keep and  
20 authenticate a journal of its proceedings as required by law and  
21 the rules.

22           (2) The Secretary of the Senate will supervise the  
23 preparation of the journal by the journal clerks trained by the  
24 Legislative Services Division under the direction of the  
25 President.

26           (3) In addition to the proceedings required by law to be  
27 recorded, the journal must include:

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1 (a) committee reports;

2 (b) every motion, the name of the Senator presenting it,  
3 and its disposition;

4 (c) the introduction of legislation in the Senate;

5 (d) consideration of legislation subsequent to  
6 introduction;

7 (e) roll call votes;

8 (f) messages from the Governor and the House of  
9 Representatives;

10 (g) every amendment, the name of the Senator presenting it,  
11 and its disposition;

12 (h) the names of Senators and their votes on any question  
13 upon a request by two Senators before a vote is taken; and

14 (i) any other records the Senate directs by rule or action.

15 (4) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide information  
16 that may be necessary for the preparation of the daily journal  
17 for printing by the Legislative Services Division. Upon approval  
18 by the President, the daily journal must be reproduced and made  
19 available.

20 (5) Any Senator may examine the daily journal and propose  
21 corrections. Without objection by the Senate, the President may  
22 direct the correction to be made.

23 (6) The President shall authenticate the original daily  
24 journal, from time to time, and the Secretary of the Senate  
25 shall, as appropriate, deliver it to the Legislative Services  
26 Division to be prepared for publication and distribution in  
27 accordance with law.





1 Questions of privilege in order of precedence are those:

2 (a) affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, or  
3 integrity of the proceedings of the Senate; and

4 (b) affecting the rights, reputation, or conduct of  
5 individual Senators in their capacity as Senators.

6 (2) A Senator may not address the Senate on a question of  
7 privilege between the time:

8 (a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken  
9 on the motion;

10 (b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken  
11 on the proposition included under the previous question; or

12 (c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is  
13 taken on the motion.

14 **S20-40. Recognition by chair.** A Senator desiring to speak  
15 shall rise and address the presiding officer and, once being  
16 recognized, shall speak standing in place. The presiding officer  
17 may grant permission for a speaker to speak from elsewhere in the  
18 chamber. When two or more Senators rise at the same time, the  
19 presiding officer shall name the order of the speakers.

20 **S20-50. Floor privileges.** (1) When the Senate is in session  
21 no person is permitted in the chambers except:

22 (a) legislators;

23 (b) legislative officers and employees whose presence is  
24 necessary for the conduct of business of the session;

25 (c) registered representatives of the media; and

26 (d) former legislators (not currently registered as  
27 lobbyists).

1 (2) The President may make exceptions for visiting  
2 dignitaries.

3 (3) Beginning 1 hour before and ending one-half hour after  
4 adjournment, no person is permitted in the chambers except those  
5 authorized as exceptions under subsection (1) or (2).

6 **S20-60. Communications to Senate.** A communication to the  
7 Senate must be addressed to the President and must bear the name  
8 of the person submitting it. The President shall decide if the  
9 communication bears including in the calendar.

10 **S20-70. Distribution of materials on floor -- exception.** (1)  
11 Subject to subsection (2), material may not be distributed on the  
12 Senators' desks in the chamber unless the material bears the  
13 signature of the bearer and a Senator and has been approved by  
14 the President.

15 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to material written by  
16 staff at the request of a Senator and placed on the Senator's  
17 desk.

18 **CHAPTER 3**

19 **Committees**

20 **S30-10. Committee appointments.** (1) There is a Committee on  
21 Committees consisting of six members. If the Senate is evenly  
22 divided between parties, the committee shall consist of six  
23 Senators, three from the majority party and three from the  
24 minority party.

25 (2) The Committee on Committees shall, with the approval of  
26 the Senate, appoint the members of Senate standing committees,  
27 select committees, and joint committees. Prior to making

1 committee assignments, the Committee on Committees shall take  
2 into consideration the recommendations of the minority leader for  
3 minority committee assignments.

4 (3) The minority leader shall designate the ranking  
5 minority member for each standing committee.

6 (4) The President of the Senate shall appoint all  
7 conference committees and special committees, with the advice of  
8 the majority leader and minority leader.

9 (5) The Senate may change the membership of any committee  
10 on 1 day's notice.

11 **S30-20. Standing committees -- classification.** (1) The  
12 standing committees of the Senate are as follows:

13 (a) class one committees:

14 (i) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs;

15 (ii) Finance and Claims;

16 (iii) Judiciary; and

17 (iv) Taxation;

18 (b) class two committees:

19 (i) Education and Cultural Resources;

20 (ii) Local Government;

21 (iii) Natural Resources;

22 (iv) Public Health, Welfare, and Safety; and

23 (v) State Administration;

24 (c) class three committees:

25 (i) Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation;

26 (ii) Energy and Telecommunications;

27 (iii) Fish and Game; and

- 1 (iv) Highways and Transportation; and
- 2 (d) on-call committees:
- 3 (i) Ethics;
- 4 (ii) Legislative Administration; and
- 5 (iii) Rules.

6 (2) A class 1 committee is scheduled to meet Monday through  
7 Friday. A class 2 committee is scheduled to meet Monday,  
8 Wednesday, and Friday. A class 3 committee is scheduled to meet  
9 Tuesday and Thursday. Unless a class is prescribed for a  
10 committee, it meets upon the call of the chair.

11 (3) The Legislative Council shall review the workload of  
12 the standing committees to determine if any change is indicated  
13 in the class of a standing committee for the next legislative  
14 session. The Legislative Council's recommendations must be  
15 submitted to the leadership nominated or elected at the  
16 presession caucus provided for in 5-2-201.

17 **S30-40. Ex officio members -- quorum.** (1) A quorum of a  
18 committee is a majority of the members of the committee. A  
19 quorum of a committee must be present at a meeting to act  
20 officially. A quorum of a committee may transact business, and a  
21 majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the  
22 committee, is sufficient for committee action.

23 (2) The majority leader and the minority leader are ex  
24 officio nonvoting members of all committees in order to establish  
25 a quorum.

26 **S30-50. Chair's duties.** (1) The chair of a committee is the  
27 presiding officer of that committee and is responsible for:

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1 (a) maintaining order within the committee room and its  
2 environs;

3 (b) scheduling hearings and executive action;

4 (c) supervising committee work, including the appointment  
5 of subcommittees to act on a formal or informal basis; and

6 (d) authenticating committee reports by signing them and  
7 submitting them promptly to the Secretary of the Senate. The  
8 chair shall sign business reports reflecting action taken in each  
9 committee meeting that enable the preparation of committee  
10 minutes. The minutes must be printed on archival paper.

11 (2) The Secretary of the Senate shall arrange to have the  
12 minutes copied in an electronic format. An electronic copy will  
13 be provided to the Legislative Services Division and the State  
14 Law Library of Montana. The archival paper copy must be delivered  
15 to the Montana Historical Society.

16 **S30-60. Meetings -- notice -- purpose -- minutes.** (1) All  
17 meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times,  
18 subject always to the power and authority of the chair to  
19 maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and place of  
20 committee meetings must be announced.

21 (2) Notice of a committee hearing must be made by posting  
22 the date, time, and subject of the hearing in a conspicuous  
23 public place not less than 3 legislative days in advance of the  
24 hearing. This 3-day notice requirement does not apply to hearings  
25 scheduled:

26 (a) prior to the third legislative day;

27 (b) less than 10 legislative days before the transmittal

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1 deadline applicable to the subject of the hearing;

2 (c) to consider confirmation of a gubernatorial appointment  
3 received less than 10 legislative days before the last scheduled  
4 day of a legislative session; or

5 (d) due to appropriate circumstances.

6 (3) When a committee hearing is scheduled with less than 3  
7 days' notice, the committee chair shall use all practical means  
8 to disseminate notice of the hearing to the public.

9 (4) Notice of conference committee hearings must be given  
10 as provided in Joint Rule 30-30.

11 (5) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

12 (a) a public hearing at which testimony is to be heard and  
13 at which official action may be taken on bills, resolutions, or  
14 other matters;

15 (b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss  
16 and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters  
17 without testimony; or

18 (c) a work session at which the committee may discuss  
19 bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

20 (6) All committees meet at the call of the chair or upon  
21 the request of a majority of the members of the committee.

22 (7) A committee may not meet during the time the Senate is  
23 in session without leave of the President. Any Senator attending  
24 a meeting while the Senate is in session must be considered  
25 excused to attend business of the Senate subject to a call of the  
26 Senate.

27 (8) All meetings of committees must be recorded and the

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1 minutes must be available to the public within a reasonable time  
2 after the meeting. The official record must contain at least the  
3 following information:

4 (a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;

5 (b) committee members present, excused, or absent;

6 (c) the names and addresses of persons appearing before the  
7 committee, whom each represents, and whether the person is a  
8 proponent, opponent, or other witness;

9 (d) all motions and their disposition;

10 (e) the results of all votes; and

11 (f) all testimony and exhibits.

12 (9) If a bill is heard in a joint committee, it must be  
13 referred to a standing committee. The standing committee is not  
14 required to hold an additional hearing but shall take executive  
15 action and may report the bill to the Committee of the Whole.

16 (10) A bill or resolution may not be considered or become a  
17 law unless referred to a committee and returned from a committee.

18 (11) A Except as provided in S50-95(3), a bill may be  
19 rereferred at any time before its passage.

20 **S30-70. Procedures -- member privileges.** (1) The chair  
21 shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the committee  
22 of the time and place it will be considered.

23 (2) A standing or select committee may not hear legislation  
24 unless the sponsor or one of the cosponsors is present or unless  
25 the sponsor has given written consent.

26 (3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b), the committee shall  
27 act on each bill in its possession:



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1 (i) by reporting the bill out of the committee:

2 (A) with the recommendation that it be referred to another  
3 committee;

4 (B) favorably as to passage; or

5 (C) unfavorably; or

6 (ii) by tabling the measure in committee.

7 (b) At the written request of the sponsor made at least 48  
8 hours prior to a scheduled hearing, a committee shall finally  
9 dispose of a bill without a hearing. Except as provided in  
10 S30-60(9), a bill may not be reported from a committee without a  
11 hearing.

12 (4) The committee may not report a bill to the Senate  
13 without recommendation.

14 (5) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee  
15 shall include in its report:

16 (a) the measure in the form reported out;

17 (b) the recommendation of the committee;

18 (c) an identification of all proposed changes; and

19 (d) a fiscal note, if required.

20 (6) If a measure is taken from a committee and brought to  
21 the Senate floor for debate on second reading on that day without  
22 a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments  
23 formally adopted by the committee because committee amendments  
24 are merely recommendations to the Senate that are formally  
25 adopted when the committee report is accepted by the Senate.

26 (7) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not  
27 required in order for the motion to be considered by the

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1 committee.

2 (8) The vote of each member on all committee actions must  
3 be recorded and reported in the committee minutes. All motions  
4 may be adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the  
5 members voting.

6 (9) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted  
7 by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at  
8 any meeting of the committee.

9 (10) An action formally taken by a committee may not be  
10 altered in the committee except by reconsideration and further  
11 formal action of the committee.

12 (11) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the  
13 matter remains in the possession of the committee. A bill is in  
14 the possession of the committee until a report on the bill is  
15 made to the Committee of the Whole. A committee member need not  
16 have voted with the prevailing side in order to move  
17 reconsideration.

18 (12) The chair shall decide points of order.

19 (13) The privileges of committee members include the  
20 following:

21 (a) to participate freely in committee discussions and  
22 debate;

23 (b) to offer motions;

24 (c) to assert points of order and privilege;

25 (d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chair;

26 (e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and

27 (f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy, using a

1 standard form.

2 (14) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of  
3 telephone or other electronic communication must be conducted in  
4 accordance with Chapter 3 of the Senate Rules.

5 (15) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or  
6 more related bills referred to it whenever legislation may be  
7 simplified by the consolidation.

8 (16) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any  
9 questions arise on committee procedure, the rules or practices of  
10 the Senate are applicable except as stated in the Senate Rules.

11 **S30-80. Public testimony -- decorum -- time restrictions.**

12 (1) Testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational  
13 witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a  
14 standing or select committee. All persons, other than the  
15 sponsor, offering testimony shall register on the committee  
16 witness list.

17 (2) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee  
18 hearing a bill or resolution must be given a reasonable  
19 opportunity to do so, orally or in writing, subject to time  
20 constraints. Written testimony may not be required of any  
21 witness, but all witnesses must be encouraged to submit a  
22 statement in writing for the committee's official record.

23 (3) The chair may order the committee room cleared of  
24 visitors if there is disorderly conduct. During committee  
25 meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chair.  
26 Restrictions on time available for testimony may be announced.

27 (4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed

1 the maximum posted by the State Fire Marshall. The chair shall  
2 maintain that limit.

3 (5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras,  
4 television, radio, or any form of telecommunication equipment is  
5 allowed, but the chair may designate the areas of the hearing  
6 room from which the equipment must be operated. Cell phone use  
7 is at the discretion of the chair.

8 **S30-100. Pairs prohibited -- absentee or proxy voting.** Pairs  
9 in standing committee are prohibited. Standing and select  
10 committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize  
11 Senators to vote in absentia. Authorization for absentee or proxy  
12 voting must be reflected in the committee minutes.

13 **S30-140. Reconsideration in committee.** A committee may at  
14 any time prior to submitting a report to the Secretary of the  
15 Senate reconsider its previous action on legislation.

16 **S30-150. Committee requested legislation.** (1) (a) Except as  
17 provided in subsection (1)(b), at least three-fourths of all the  
18 members of a standing committee must have voted in favor of the  
19 question to allow the committee to request the drafting and  
20 introduction of legislation.

21 (b) The Finance and Claims Committee may request the  
22 drafting and introduction of legislation by a majority vote of  
23 all of the members of the committee.

24 (2) The chair of a committee shall introduce, or shall  
25 designate a member of the committee to introduce, legislation  
26 requested by the committee. The introduced bill must be referred  
27 to the requesting committee.





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1 referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum.

2 (2) Bills and resolutions preintroduced as provided in  
3 Joint Rule 40-40 may be assigned to committee and printed prior  
4 to the legislative session. The Legislative Services Division is  
5 responsible for ensuring the preintroduction intent from each  
6 Senator and presenting the preintroduced legislation to the  
7 Secretary of the Senate.

8 (3) Upon referral to committee, the Secretary of the Senate  
9 shall publicly post a listing of the bill or resolution by a  
10 summary of its title, together with a notation of the committee  
11 to which it has been assigned.

12 (4) The sponsor may ask the Legislative Services Division  
13 to change or correct a short title used on the bill status  
14 system.

15 **S40-30. Additional sponsors.** (1) Additional sponsors may be  
16 added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a  
17 standing committee report on the bill or resolution. Forms for  
18 adding sponsors will be supplied on request by the Secretary of  
19 the Senate.

20 (2) Upon passage of the motion, the names of the additional  
21 sponsors will be printed in the journal and the form containing  
22 the signatures of the additional sponsors will be forwarded to  
23 the Legislative Services Division with the original bill for the  
24 inclusion of the names in subsequent printings of the bill or  
25 resolution.

26 **S40-40. Reading limitations.** (1) Every bill must be read  
27 three times prior to passage, either by title or by summary of

1 title as provided in these rules.

2 (2) A bill or resolution may not have more than one reading  
3 on the same day except the last legislative day.

4 (3) An amendment may not be offered on third reading.

5 **S40-60. Scheduling for second reading.** (1) All bills and  
6 resolutions that have been reported by a committee or withdrawn  
7 from a committee by motion, accepted by the Senate, and  
8 reproduced must be scheduled for consideration by Committee of  
9 the Whole.

10 (2) Until the 50th legislative day, 1 day must elapse  
11 between receiving the legislation from printing and scheduling  
12 for second reading for consideration by Committee of the Whole  
13 unless a printed version of an unamended bill is available.

14 (3) The majority leader shall arrange legislation on the  
15 agenda in the order in which the bills will be considered, unless  
16 otherwise ordered by the Senate or Committee of the Whole.

17 **CHAPTER 5**

18 **Floor Action**

19 **S50-10. Attendance -- mandatory voting -- quorum.** (1) Unless  
20 excused, Senators must be present at every sitting of the Senate  
21 and shall vote on questions put before the Senate.

22 (2) A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to  
23 do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and  
24 compel the attendance of absent Senators, in the manner and under  
25 penalties as the Senate may prescribe (Montana Constitution, Art.  
26 V, sec. 10(2)).

27 **S50-20. Orders of business.** After prayer, roll call, and



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1 report on the journal, the order of business of the Senate is as  
2 follows:

- 3 (1) communications and petitions;
- 4 (2) reports of standing committees;
- 5 (3) reports of select committees;
- 6 (4) messages from the Governor;
- 7 (5) messages from the House of Representatives;
- 8 (6) motions;
- 9 (7) first reading and commitment of bills;
- 10 (8) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole);
- 11 (9) third reading of bills;
- 12 (10) unfinished business;
- 13 (11) special orders of the day; and
- 14 (12) announcement of committee meetings.

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

19 **S50-30. Limitations on debate.** A Senator may not speak more  
20 than twice on any one motion or question without unanimous  
21 consent of the Senate, unless the Senator has introduced or  
22 proposed the motion or question under debate, in which case the  
23 Senator may speak twice and also close the debate. However, a  
24 Senator who has spoken may not speak again on the same motion or  
25 question to the exclusion of a Senator who has not spoken.

26 **S50-40. Procedure upon offering a motion.** (1) When a motion  
27 is offered it must be restated by the presiding officer. If

1 requested by the presiding officer or a Senator, it must be  
2 reduced to writing, presented at the rostrum, and read aloud by  
3 the Secretary.

4 (2) A motion may be withdrawn by the Senator offering it at  
5 any time before it is amended or voted upon.

6 **S50-50. Precedence of motions.** (1) When a question is under  
7 debate only the following privileged and subsidiary motions may  
8 be made:

9 (a) to adjourn (nondebatable S50-60);

10 (b) for a call of the Senate (nondebatable S50-60);

11 (c) to recess (nondebatable S50-60);

12 (d) question of privilege;

13 (e) to lay on the table (nondebatable S50-60);

14 (f) for the previous question (nondebatable S50-60);

15 (g) to postpone to a certain day;

16 (h) to refer or commit;

17 (i) to amend; and

18 (j) to postpone indefinitely.

19 (2) The motions listed in subsection (1) have precedence in  
20 the order listed.

21 (3) A question may be indefinitely postponed by a majority  
22 roll call of all Senators present and voting. When a bill or  
23 resolution is postponed indefinitely, it is finally rejected and  
24 may not be acted upon again except upon a motion of  
25 reconsideration as provided in S50-90.

26 (4) A motion or proposition on a subject different from  
27 that under consideration may not be accepted unless a substitute

1 motion is in order.

2 **S50-60. Nondebatable motions.** The following motions are not  
3 debatable:

4 (1) to adjourn;

5 (2) for a call of the Senate;

6 (3) to recess or rise;

7 (4) for parliamentary inquiry;

8 (5) for suspension of the rules;

9 (6) to lay on the table;

10 (7) for the previous question;

11 (8) to limit, extend the limits of, or to close debate;

12 (9) to amend an undebatable motion;

13 (10) to change a vote (S50-200);

14 (11) to pass business in Committee of the Whole;

15 (12) to take from the table;

16 (13) a decision of the presiding officer, unless appealed or  
17 unless the presiding officer submits the question to the Senate  
18 for advice or decision; and

19 (14) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to  
20 voting or other questions of a general procedural nature.

21 **S50-70. Amending motions -- restrictions.** (1) Subject to  
22 subsection (2), no more than one amendment and no more than one  
23 substitute motion may be made to a motion. This rule permits the  
24 main motion and two modifying motions.

25 (2) A motion for a call of the Senate, for the previous  
26 question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

27 **S50-80. Previous question.** (1) Except as provided in

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1 subsection (2), the effect of calling for the previous question,  
2 if adopted, is to close debate immediately, to prevent the  
3 offering of amendments or other subsidiary motions, and to bring  
4 to vote promptly the immediately pending main question and the  
5 adhering subsidiary motions, whether on appeal or otherwise. The  
6 motion for the previous question is nondebatable as provided in  
7 S50-60(7).

8 (2) When the previous question is ordered on any debatable  
9 question on which there has been no debate, the question may be  
10 debated for one-half hour, one-half of that time to be given to  
11 the proponents and one-half to the opponents. The sponsor of the  
12 main motion on which the previous question is adopted may close  
13 on the motion regardless of whether debate on the main motion has  
14 occurred.

15 (3) A call of the Senate is not in order after the previous  
16 question is ordered unless it appears upon an actual count by the  
17 presiding officer that a quorum is not present.

18 **S50-90. Reconsideration -- time restrictions.** (1) Subject to  
19 subsection (6), any Senator may, on the day the vote was taken or  
20 on the next day the Senate is in session, move to reconsider the  
21 question. A motion to reconsider is a debatable motion, but the  
22 debate is limited to the motion. The debate on a motion to  
23 reconsider may not address the substance of the matter for which  
24 reconsideration is sought. However, an inquiry may be made  
25 concerning the purpose of the motion to reconsider.

26 (2) A motion to reconsider must be disposed of when made  
27 unless a proper substitute motion is made and adopted.

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1 (3) A motion to recall a bill from the House of  
2 Representatives constitutes notice to reconsider and must be  
3 acted on as a motion to reconsider. A motion to reconsider or to  
4 recall a bill from the House of Representatives may be made only  
5 under Order of Business No. 6 and, under that order of business,  
6 takes precedence over all motions except motions to recess or  
7 adjourn.

8 (4) When a motion to reconsider is laid on the table, a  
9 two-thirds majority is required to take it from the table. When a  
10 motion to reconsider fails, the question is finally and  
11 conclusively settled.

12 (5) If a motion to reconsider third reading action is  
13 carried, there may not be further action until the succeeding  
14 legislative day.

15 (6) If the Senate has adjourned for more than 2 days, then  
16 a motion to reconsider action taken on the last day the Senate  
17 was in session is in order on the day the Senate reconvenes or on  
18 the following legislative day.

19 **S50-95. Rerefferal.** (1) Except as provided in S50-95(2) and  
20 S50-95(3), legislation that is in the possession of the Senate  
21 and that has been reported from a committee with a do pass or be  
22 concurred in recommendation may be rereferred to a Senate  
23 committee by a majority vote.

24 (2) (a) Except as provided in S50-95(3), with the consent of  
25 the majority leader, the minority leader, and the bill sponsor,  
26 legislation that has passed second reading in the Committee of  
27 the Whole and that has been rereferred to the Finance and Claims

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1 Committee pursuant to S50-95(1), and is reported from committee  
2 without amendments may be placed on third reading.

3 (b) Prior to being placed on third reading, legislation  
4 rereferred pursuant to S50-95(2)(a), must be sent to be processed  
5 and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked  
6 as having been passed on second reading and rereferred to the  
7 Senate Finance and Claims Committee and reported from the  
8 committee without amendments.

9 (3) Legislation that increases revenue to the state and that  
10 is in the possession of the Senate and that has been reported  
11 from the Senate Taxation committee with a do pass or be concurred  
12 in recommendation may not be rereferred to the Senate Finance and  
13 Claims committee.

14 **S50-100. Dividing a question -- segregation excluded.** A  
15 Senator may request to divide a question if it includes two or  
16 more propositions so distinct in substance that if one thing is  
17 taken away a substantive question will remain. A vote is not  
18 required on a request to divide a question, but the chair may  
19 rule that a question is not divisible. The ruling of the chair  
20 may be appealed as provided in S20-10 and S20-20. For an appeal  
21 of a ruling of the presiding officer, the question for the Senate  
22 must be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be upheld?". A  
23 motion to segregate pursuant to S50-140(4) is not a request to  
24 divide a question.

25 **S50-110. Rules for questions or bills requiring other than a**  
26 **majority vote.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a  
27 question or bill requires more than a majority vote for final

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1 passage, a majority vote is sufficient to decide any question  
2 relating to the question or bill prior to third reading.

3 (2) Any vote in the Senate on a bill proposing an amendment  
4 to the Montana Constitution under circumstances in which there  
5 exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary  
6 two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to  
7 progress as though it had received the majority vote. This rule  
8 does not prevent a committee from indefinitely postponing or  
9 tabling a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana  
10 Constitution.

11 (3) If a bill has been amended in the House of  
12 Representatives and the amendments are accepted by the Senate,  
13 the bill must again be placed on third reading in the Senate to  
14 determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

15 **S50-120. Committee reports to Senate -- reconsideration.** (1)  
16 Reports of standing committees must be read on Order of Business  
17 No. 2, and, subject to subsection (4), debate may not be had on  
18 any report.

19 (2) On an adverse committee report, the sponsor may respond  
20 to the chair of the committee making the report.

21 (3) Any Senator seeking a reconsideration of the Senate's  
22 action on the adoption of a committee report shall do so on Order  
23 of Business No. 6 by motion to reconsider as provided in S50-90.  
24 Any Senator may make the reconsideration motion and need not have  
25 voted on the prevailing side. This rule applies notwithstanding  
26 any joint rule to the contrary. Subject to S50-90(6), the  
27 reconsideration motion must be made within 1 legislative day of

1 the adoption of the committee report and is not in order if the  
2 bill has been considered in Committee of the Whole.

3 (4) (a) Subject to subsection (4)(b), the Rules Committee  
4 and conference committees may report at any time, except during a  
5 call of the Senate, when a vote is being taken, or during  
6 Committee of the Whole.

7 (b) The Rules Committee may report during Committee of the  
8 Whole on matters referred to the Committee by the Committee of  
9 the Whole.

10 **S50-130. Conference committee -- reports.** (1) When a  
11 conference committee report is filed with the Secretary of the  
12 Senate, the report must be read under Order of Business No. 3,  
13 select committees, and placed on the calendar the succeeding  
14 legislative day for consideration on second reading. If  
15 recommended favorably by the Committee of the Whole, it may be  
16 considered on third reading the same legislative day.

17 (2) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives  
18 adopt the same conference committee report on legislation  
19 requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the  
20 Senate, following approval of the conference committee report on  
21 third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on  
22 third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

23 (3) If the Senate rejects a conference committee report,  
24 the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the  
25 President or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent  
26 report.

27 (4) A Senate conference committee may confer regarding



1 matters assigned to it with any House conference committee with  
2 like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of  
3 the Senate.

4 **S50-140. Second reading -- Committee of the Whole report --**  
5 **segregation -- rejection.** (1) The Senate may resolve itself into  
6 a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second  
7 reading, by approval of a motion for that purpose.

8 (2) After a Committee of the Whole has been formed, the  
9 President shall appoint a chair to preside.

10 (3) All legislation considered in the Committee of the  
11 Whole must be read by a summary of its title. The sponsor shall  
12 make an opening statement, proposed amendments must be  
13 considered, and then the bill must be considered in its entirety.

14 (4) Prior to adoption of the Committee of the Whole report,  
15 a Senator may move to segregate legislation. If the motion  
16 prevails, the legislation remains on second reading.

17 (5) When a Committee of the Whole report on legislation is  
18 rejected, the legislation remains on second reading.

19 **S50-150. Committee of the Whole amendments.** (1) All  
20 Committee of the Whole amendments must be prepared by the staff  
21 of the Legislative Services Division, stipulating the date and  
22 time of preparation and staff approval, and delivered to the  
23 Secretary of the Senate for reading before the amendment is voted  
24 on.

25 (2) Each amendment, rejected or adopted, must be printed in  
26 the journal, along with the name of the sponsor and the vote on  
27 each.

1           **S50-160. Motions in Committee of the Whole.** (1) All proper  
2 motions on second reading are debatable unless specified in  
3 S50-60.

4           (2) The only motions in order during Committee of the Whole  
5 are to:

6           (a) recommend passage or nonpassage;

7           (b) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence (House  
8 amendments to Senate legislation);

9           (c) amend;

10          (d) indefinitely postpone;

11          (e) pass consideration;

12          (f) change the order in which legislation is placed on the  
13 agenda (nondebatable S50-60(14));

14          (g) rise (nondebatable S50-60(3));

15          (h) rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again  
16 (nondebatable S50-60(3)); or

17          (i) rise and report (nondebatable S50-60(3)).

18          (3) The motions listed in subsection (2) may be made in  
19 descending order as listed.

20           **S50-170. Committee of the Whole -- generally.** (1) The  
21 Committee of the Whole may not appoint subcommittees.

22           (2) The Committee of the Whole may not punish its members  
23 for misconduct, but may report disorder to the Senate.

24           **S50-180. Voting on second reading -- positive disposition of**  
25 **motions.** (1) On Order of Business No. 8, in addition to other  
26 methods, a recorded vote may be made in the following manner: the  
27 chair may call for a voice vote to accept or reject a question.

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1 If the vote is other than unanimous, the chair may ask that the  
2 lesser number on the question indicate their vote by standing.  
3 The Secretary will then record the vote of those standing. The  
4 chair may then rule that unless excused those not standing and  
5 present have voted on the prevailing side of the question and  
6 that their vote be recorded as voting on the prevailing side. If  
7 there was a unanimous voice vote, all those present will be  
8 recorded as having voted for the question.

9 (2) A motion on second reading must be disposed of by a  
10 positive vote.

11 **S50-190. Third reading procedure.** (1) Unless rereferred to a  
12 committee by a majority vote after the adoption of the Committee  
13 of the Whole report but before moving to another order of  
14 business, all legislation passing second reading must be placed  
15 on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing  
16 or other appropriate printing report.

17 (2) On Order of Business No. 9 the Secretary shall read the  
18 title and the President shall state the question as follows:  
19 "Senate bill number (or other appropriate identification).....  
20 having been read three several times, the question is, shall the  
21 bill (or other appropriate identification) pass the Senate?"

22 (3) If an electronic voting system is used, the President  
23 shall state "Those in favor vote yes and those opposed vote no"  
24 and the Secretary will sound the signal and open the board for  
25 voting. After a reasonable pause the presiding officer asks "Has  
26 every member voted?" (reasonable pause), "Does any member wish to  
27 change his or her vote?" (reasonable pause), "The Secretary will

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1 record the vote."

2 **S50-200. Senate voting -- changing a vote -- objection.** (1)

3 A roll call vote must be taken on the request of two Senators, if  
4 the request occurs before the vote is taken.

5 (2) On a roll call vote the names of the Senators must be  
6 called alphabetically, unless an electronic voting system is  
7 used. A Senator may not vote after the decision is announced from  
8 the chair. A Senator may not explain a vote until after the  
9 decision is announced from the chair.

10 (3) A Senator may move to change the Senator's vote, on any  
11 recorded vote, within 1 legislative day of the vote. The Senator  
12 making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the date  
13 of the vote, and the original vote tally. A vote may not be  
14 changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation. The motion  
15 is nondebatable. If none of the Senators present object, the  
16 change must be entered into the journal.

17 (4) If any Senator objects to the request in subsection  
18 (3), the Senator making the request may move to suspend the rules  
19 to allow the Senator to change the Senator's vote.

20 (5) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system  
21 may be corrected without a vote within 10 minutes of the  
22 malfunction.

23 **S50-210. Pairs.** (1) Two Senators may pair on a question that  
24 will be determined by a majority vote. On a question requiring a  
25 two-thirds vote for adoption, three Senators may pair, with two  
26 Senators for the question and one Senator against. Pairing is  
27 permitted only when one of the paired Senators is excused when

1 the vote is taken.

2 (2) An agreement to pair must be in writing and dated and  
3 signed by the Senators agreeing to be bound and must specify the  
4 duration of the pair. When an agreement to pair is filed with the  
5 Secretary of the Senate, it binds the Senators signing until the  
6 expiration of time for which it was signed, unless the paired  
7 Senators sooner appear and ask that the agreement be canceled.

8 **S50-220. Call of the Senate.** (1) In the absence of a quorum,  
9 a majority of Senators present may compel the attendance of  
10 absent Senators by ordering a call of the Senate.

11 (2) If a quorum is present, five Senators may order a call  
12 of the Senate.

13 (3) On a call of the Senate, a Senator who refuses to  
14 attend may be arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms or any other  
15 person, as the majority of the Senators present direct. When the  
16 attendance of an absent Senator is secured and the Senate refuses  
17 to excuse the Senator's absence, the Senator may not be paid any  
18 expense payments while absent and is liable for the expenses  
19 incurred in procuring the Senator's attendance.

20 (4) During a call of the Senate, all business must be  
21 suspended. After a call has been ordered, no motion is in order  
22 except a motion to adjourn or remove the call. The call may be  
23 removed by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

24 **S50-230. House amendments to Senate legislation.** (1) When  
25 the House has properly returned Senate legislation with House  
26 amendments, the Senate shall announce the amendments on Order of  
27 Business No. 5 and the President shall place them on second

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1 reading for debate. The President may rerefer Senate legislation  
2 with House amendments to a committee for a hearing if the House  
3 amendments constitute a significant change in the Senate  
4 legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration  
5 of the House amendments.

6 (2) If the Senate accepts House amendments, the Senate  
7 shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to  
8 determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the  
9 required vote is obtained.

10 (3) If the Senate rejects the House amendments, the Senate  
11 may request the House to recede from its amendments or may direct  
12 appointment of a conference committee and request the House to  
13 appoint a like committee.

14 **S50-240. Governor's amendments.** (1) When the Governor  
15 returns a bill with recommended amendments, the Senate shall  
16 announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 4.

17 (2) The Senate may debate and adopt or reject the  
18 Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any  
19 legislative day.

20 (3) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives  
21 accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that  
22 requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the Senate  
23 shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to  
24 determine if the required vote is obtained.

25 **S50-250. Governor's veto.** (1) When the Governor returns a  
26 bill with a veto, the Senate shall announce the veto under Order  
27 of Business No. 4.

1 (2) On any legislative day, a Senator may move to override  
2 the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business  
3 No. 6.

4 **CHAPTER 6**

5 **Rules**

6 **S60-10. Senate rules -- amendment -- adoption -- suspension.**

7 (1) A motion to amend or adopt a rule of the Senate must be  
8 referred to the Rules Committee without debate. A rule of the  
9 Senate may be amended or adopted only with the concurrence of a  
10 majority of the Senate and after 1 day's notice.

11 (2) A rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds  
12 vote.

13 **S60-20. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure.** Mason's  
14 Manual of Legislative Procedure (2010) governs the proceedings of  
15 the Senate in all cases not covered by these rules.

16 **S60-30. Joint rules superseded.** A Senate rule, insofar as it  
17 relates to the internal proceedings of the Senate, supersedes a  
18 joint rule.

19 **CHAPTER 7**

20 **Nominations from the Governor**

21 **S70-10. Nominations.** (1) The Governor shall nominate and, by  
22 and with the consent of the Senate, appoint all officers whose  
23 offices are established by the Montana Constitution or which may  
24 be created by law and for whom appointment or election is not  
25 otherwise provided.

26 (2) If during a recess of the Senate a vacancy occurs in  
27 any office subject to Senate confirmation, the Governor shall

1 appoint some fit person to discharge the duties of the office  
2 until the next meeting of the Senate, when the Governor shall  
3 nominate a person to fill the office.

4 **S70-20. Receiving nominations -- requesting bill drafts.**

5 (1) Nominations received from the Governor must be:

6 (a) received by the President;

7 (b) delivered to the Secretary of the Senate; and

8 (c) read under Order of Business No. 4, messages from the  
9 Governor.

10 (2) The Secretary shall distribute a copy of the list of  
11 nominations to each Senator.

12 (3) (a) The President of the Senate shall submit a bill  
13 draft request for a resolution for each nominee or each group of  
14 nominees read under Order of Business No. 4. These bill draft  
15 requests will not count against any bill draft request limit  
16 imposed on the President of the Senate.

17 (b) Prior to introduction of the resolution, the President  
18 of the Senate shall designate the appropriate committee chair to  
19 introduce the simple resolution.

20 **S70-30. Committee process -- ~~preliminary reports~~ -- separate**

21 **consideration.** (1) (a) The committee shall research each nominee  
22 and may request biographical information from the Governor for  
23 each nominee if none has been provided.

24 (b) When the resolution has been prepared and introduced,  
25 the committee shall hold a hearing on the resolution after  
26 appropriate public notice has been given.

27 (2)(a) ~~Following~~ Except as provided in subsection (2)(b),



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1 following the hearings for a group of nominees, the committee  
2 shall issue ~~preliminary~~ standing committee reports to be  
3 ~~distributed to each Senator~~ considered on second reading, stating  
4 the committee's recommendations concerning the nominees. A  
5 ~~preliminary standing committee report is not required for a~~  
6 ~~resolution for a single nominee pursuant to subsection (5).~~

7 (b) Following the hearings for the group of nominees, if a  
8 committee member wishes to have an individual nominee or group of  
9 nominees considered by the Senate separately from the group of  
10 nominees the committee member may prepare an amendment for  
11 executive action to strike or add a nominee or group of nominees.  
12 If a nominee or a group of nominees is stricken, the committee  
13 member that offered the amendment, shall make a motion to request  
14 a committee resolution for the nominee or nominees to be  
15 considered by a separate resolution. A simple majority of the  
16 committee is sufficient in order to request a separate committee  
17 resolution.

18 (3) ~~(a) If~~ Within the committee of the whole, if a Senator  
19 wishes to have an individual nominee or group of nominees  
20 considered by the Senate separately from the group of nominees  
21 recommended by the committee, the Senator may prepare a floor  
22 amendment to strike or add a nominee or group of nominees. If a  
23 nominee or a group of nominees is stricken, a Senator may make a  
24 motion to request that of the chair of the committee the  
25 President of the Senate to submit a bill draft request for the  
26 nominee or nominees to be considered by a separate resolution.

27 ~~(b) A Senator shall request separate consideration of a~~

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1 ~~nominee within 3 days of receipt of the preliminary standing~~  
2 ~~committee report. The committee chair shall honor this request.~~

3 ~~(4) After waiting 3 days from the day of distribution of~~  
4 ~~the preliminary standing committee report, the committee chair~~  
5 ~~shall issue a final standing committee report and deliver the~~  
6 ~~report to the Secretary of the Senate.~~

7 ~~—— (a) If a nominee is to be separated from the resolution,~~  
8 ~~the final standing committee report must include an amendment~~  
9 ~~deleting that nominee.~~

10 ~~—— (b) When a nominee has been separated at the request of a~~  
11 ~~Senator or when a single nomination has been submitted to a~~  
12 ~~committee, the committee chair shall submit a bill draft request~~  
13 ~~on behalf of the committee for a simple resolution to include~~  
14 ~~only the single or separated nominee. When the resolution for an~~  
15 ~~individual or group nomination has been prepared and introduced,~~  
16 ~~the committee shall take executive action on the resolution.~~  
17 ~~When a hearing on the separated nomination was held prior to the~~  
18 ~~committee's preliminary standing committee report, an additional~~  
19 ~~hearing is not required to be held before the committee takes~~  
20 ~~action on the separate resolution. After the committee's~~  
21 ~~executive action, the committee chair shall issue a standing~~  
22 ~~committee report.~~

23 ~~(5) If a resolution contains only one nominee, the~~  
24 ~~committee shall dispense with the preliminary standing committee~~  
25 ~~report and shall issue a final standing committee report to be~~  
26 ~~distributed to each Senator stating the committee's~~  
27 ~~recommendation concerning the nominee.~~



