

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 158

2 INTRODUCED BY D. KARY

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING AN AGENCY TO PRESENT THE SUBSTANCE OF AN
5 ADMINISTRATIVE RULE PROPOSAL TO THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE
6 REVIEW COMMITTEE; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 2-4-302, 2-4-305, AND 2-4-402, MCA."

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

9

10 **Section 1.** Section 2-4-302, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"2-4-302. Notice, hearing, and submission of views.** (1) (a) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or
12 repeal of any rule, the agency shall give written notice of its proposed action. The proposal notice must include
13 a statement of either the terms or substance of the intended action or a description of the subjects and issues
14 involved, the reasonable necessity for the proposed action, and the time when, place where, and manner in which
15 interested persons may present their views on the proposed action. The reasonable necessity must be written
16 in plain, easily understood language.

17 (b) The agency shall state in the proposal notice the date on which and the manner in which contact was
18 made with the primary sponsor as required in subsection (2)(d). If the notification to the primary sponsor was
19 given by mail, the date stated in the proposal notice must be the date on which the notification was mailed by the
20 agency. If the proposal notice fails to state the date on which and the manner in which the primary sponsor was
21 contacted, the filing of the proposal notice under subsection (2)(a)(i) is ineffective for the purposes of this part and
22 for the purposes of the law that the agency cites in the proposal notice as the authority for the proposed action.

23 (c) If the agency proposes to adopt, increase, or decrease a monetary amount that a person shall pay
24 or will receive, such as a fee, cost, or benefit, the notice must include an estimate, if known, of:

25 (i) the cumulative amount for all persons of the proposed increase, decrease, or new amount; and

26 (ii) the number of persons affected.

27 (2) (a) (i) The proposal notice must be filed with the secretary of state for publication in the register, as
28 provided in 2-4-312. Except as provided in subsection (2)(a)(ii), within 3 days of publication, a copy of the
29 published proposal notice must be sent to interested persons who have made timely requests to the agency to
30 be informed of its rulemaking proceedings, and to the office of any professional, trade, or industrial society or

1 organization or member of those entities who has filed a request with the appropriate administrative rule review
2 committee when the request has been forwarded to the agency as provided in subsection (2)(b).

3 (ii) In lieu of sending a copy of the published proposal notice to an interested person who has requested
4 the notice, the agency may, with the consent of that person, send that person an electronic notification that the
5 proposal notice is available on the agency's website and an electronic link to the part of the agency's website or
6 a description of the means of locating that part of the agency's website where the notice is available.

7 (iii) Each agency shall create and maintain a list of interested persons and the subject or subjects in
8 which each person on the list is interested. A person who submits a written comment or attends a hearing in
9 regard to proposed agency action under this part must be informed of the list by the agency. An agency complies
10 with this subsection if it includes in the proposal notice an advisement explaining how persons may be placed
11 on the list of interested persons and if it complies with subsection (7).

12 (b) The appropriate administrative rule review committee shall forward a list of all organizations or
13 persons who have submitted a request to be informed of agency actions to the agencies that the committee
14 oversees that publish rulemaking notices in the register. The list must be amended by the agency upon request
15 of any person requesting to be added to or deleted from the list.

16 (c) The proposal notice required by subsection (1) must be published at least 30 days in advance of the
17 agency's proposed action. The agency shall post the proposal notice on a state electronic access system or other
18 electronic communications system available to the public.

19 (d) (i) When an agency begins to work on the substantive content and the wording of a proposal notice
20 for a rule that initially implements legislation, the agency shall contact, as provided in subsection (8), the legislator
21 who was the primary sponsor of the legislation to:

22 (A) obtain the legislator's comments;

23 (B) inform the legislator of the known dates by which each step of the rulemaking process must be
24 completed; and

25 (C) provide the legislator with information about the time periods during which the legislator may
26 comment on the proposed rules, including the opportunity to provide comment to the appropriate administrative
27 rule review committee.

28 (ii) If the legislation affected more than one program, the primary sponsor must be contacted pursuant
29 to this subsection (2)(d) each time that a rule is being proposed to initially implement the legislation for a program.

30 (iii) Within 3 days after a proposal notice covered under subsection (2)(d)(i) has been published as

1 required in subsection (2)(a)(i), a copy of the published notice must be sent to the primary sponsor contacted
2 under this subsection (2)(d).

3 (3) If a statute provides for a method of publication different from that provided in subsection (2), the
4 affected agency shall comply with the statute in addition to the requirements contained in this section. However,
5 the notice period may not be less than 30 days or more than 6 months.

6 (4) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, the agency shall:

7 (a) afford interested persons at least 20 days' notice of a hearing and at least 28 days from the day of
8 the original notice to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing. If an amended or supplemental notice
9 is filed, additional time may be allowed for oral or written submissions. In the case of substantive rules, the notice
10 of proposed rulemaking must state that opportunity for oral hearing must be granted if requested by either 10%
11 or 25, whichever is less, of the persons who will be directly affected by the proposed rule, by a governmental
12 subdivision or agency, by the appropriate administrative rule review committee, or by an association having not
13 less than 25 members who will be directly affected. If the proposed rulemaking involves matters of significant
14 interest to the public, the agency shall schedule an oral hearing.

15 (b) present in person the substance of the rule proposal to the appropriate administrative rule review
16 committee so that members of the committee may inquire about the agency's proposed action. This subsection
17 (4)(b) does not apply to rulemaking pursuant to 2-4-303.

18 (5) An agency may continue a hearing date for cause. In the discretion of the agency, contested case
19 procedures need not be followed in hearings held pursuant to this section. If a hearing is otherwise required by
20 statute, nothing in this section alters that requirement.

21 (6) If an agency fails to publish a notice of adoption within the time required by 2-4-305(7) and the
22 agency again proposes the same rule for adoption, amendment, or repeal, the proposal must be considered a
23 new proposal for purposes of compliance with this chapter.

24 (7) At the commencement of a hearing on the intended action, the person designated by the agency to
25 preside at the hearing shall:

26 (a) read aloud the "Notice of Function of Administrative Rule Review Committee" appearing in the
27 register; and

28 (b) inform the persons at the hearing of the provisions of subsection (2)(a) and provide them an
29 opportunity to place their names on the list.

30 (8) (a) For purposes of contacting primary sponsors under subsection (2)(d), a current or former

1 legislator who wishes to receive notice shall keep the current or former legislator's name, address, e-mail
2 address, and telephone number on file with the secretary of state. The secretary of state may also use legislator
3 contact information provided by the legislative services division for the purposes of the register. The secretary
4 of state shall update the contact information whenever the secretary of state receives corrected information from
5 the legislator or the legislative services division. An agency proposing rules shall consult the register when
6 providing sponsor contact.

7 (b) An agency has complied with the primary bill sponsor contact requirements of this section when the
8 agency has attempted to reach the primary bill sponsor at the legislator's address, e-mail address, and telephone
9 number on file with the secretary of state pursuant to subsection (8)(a). If the agency is able to contact the
10 primary sponsor by using less than all of these three methods of contact, the other methods need not be used."

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12 **Section 2.** Section 2-4-305, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"2-4-305. Requisites for validity -- authority and statement of reasons.** (1) (a) The agency shall fully
14 consider written and oral submissions respecting the proposed rule, including comments submitted by the primary
15 sponsor of the legislation prior to the drafting of the substantive content and wording of a proposed rule that
16 initially implements legislation.

17 (b) (i) Upon adoption of a rule, an agency shall issue a concise statement of the principal reasons for
18 and against its adoption, incorporating in the statement the reasons for overruling the considerations urged
19 against its adoption. If substantial differences exist between the rule as proposed and as adopted and the
20 differences have not been described or set forth in the adopted rule as that rule is published in the register, the
21 differences must be described in the statement of reasons for and against agency action. When written or oral
22 submissions have not been received, an agency may omit the statement of reasons.

23 (ii) If an adopted rule that initially implements legislation does not reflect the comments submitted by the
24 primary sponsor, the agency shall provide a statement explaining why the sponsor's comments were not
25 incorporated into the adopted rule.

26 (2) Rules may not unnecessarily repeat statutory language. Whenever it is necessary to refer to statutory
27 language in order to convey the meaning of a rule interpreting the language, the reference must clearly indicate
28 the portion of the language that is statutory and the portion that is an amplification of the language.

29 (3) Each proposed and adopted rule must include a citation to the specific grant of rulemaking authority
30 pursuant to which the rule or any part of the rule is adopted. In addition, each proposed and adopted rule must

1 include a citation to the specific section or sections in the Montana Code Annotated that the rule purports to
2 implement. A substantive rule may not be proposed or adopted unless:

3 (a) a statute granting the agency authority to adopt rules clearly and specifically lists the subject matter
4 of the rule as a subject upon which the agency shall or may adopt rules; or

5 (b) the rule implements and relates to a subject matter or an agency function that is clearly and
6 specifically included in a statute to which the grant of rulemaking authority extends.

7 (4) Each rule that is proposed and adopted by an agency and that implements a policy of a governing
8 board or commission must include a citation to and description of the policy implemented. Each agency rule
9 implementing a policy and the policy itself must be based on legal authority and otherwise comply with the
10 requisites for validity of rules established by this chapter.

11 (5) To be effective, each substantive rule adopted must be within the scope of authority conferred and
12 in accordance with standards prescribed by other provisions of law.

13 (6) Whenever by the express or implied terms of any statute a state agency has authority to adopt rules
14 to implement, interpret, make specific, or otherwise carry out the provisions of the statute, an adoption,
15 amendment, or repeal of a rule is not valid or effective unless it is:

16 (a) consistent and not in conflict with the statute; and

17 (b) reasonably necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute. A statute mandating that the agency
18 adopt rules establishes the necessity for rules but does not, standing alone, constitute reasonable necessity for
19 a rule. The agency shall also address the reasonableness component of the reasonable necessity requirement
20 by, as indicated in 2-4-302(1) and subsection (1) of this section, stating the principal reasons and the rationale
21 for its intended action and for the particular approach that it takes in complying with the mandate to adopt rules.
22 Subject to the provisions of subsection (8), reasonable necessity must be clearly and thoroughly demonstrated
23 for each adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule in the agency's notice of proposed rulemaking and in the
24 written and oral data, views, comments, or testimony submitted by the public or the agency and considered by
25 the agency. A statement that merely explains what the rule provides is not a statement of the reasonable
26 necessity for the rule.

27 (7) A rule is not valid unless notice of it is given and it is adopted in substantial compliance with 2-4-302,
28 2-4-303, or 2-4-306 and this section and unless notice of adoption of the rule is published within 6 months of the
29 publishing of notice of the proposed rule. The measure of whether an agency has adopted a rule in substantial
30 compliance with 2-4-302, 2-4-303, or 2-4-306 and this section is not whether the agency has provided notice of

1 the proposed rule, standing alone, but rather must be based on an analysis of the agency's substantial
2 compliance with 2-4-302, 2-4-303, or 2-4-306 and this section. If an amended or supplemental notice of either
3 proposed or final rulemaking, or both, is published concerning the same rule, the 6-month limit must be
4 determined with reference to the latest notice in all cases.

5 (8) (a) An agency may use an amended proposal notice or the adoption notice to correct deficiencies
6 in citations of authority for rules and in citations of sections implemented by rules.

7 (b) An agency may use an amended proposal notice but, except for clerical corrections, may not use the
8 adoption notice to correct deficiencies in a statement of reasonable necessity.

9 (c) If an agency uses an amended proposal notice to amend a statement of reasonable necessity for
10 reasons other than for corrections in citations of authority, in citations of sections being implemented, or of a
11 clerical nature, the agency shall allow additional time for oral or written comments from the same interested
12 persons who were notified of the original proposal notice, including from a primary sponsor, if primary sponsor
13 notification was required under 2-4-302, and from any other person who offered comments or appeared at a
14 hearing already held on the proposed rule.

15 (9) If following an agency presentation of a proposed rule as provided in 2-4-302(4)(b) a majority of the
16 members of the appropriate administrative rule review committee notify the committee presiding officer that those
17 members object to a notice of proposed rulemaking, the committee shall notify the agency in writing that the
18 committee objects to the proposal notice and will address the objections at the next committee meeting. Following
19 notice by the committee to the agency, the proposal notice may not be adopted until publication of the last issue
20 of the register that is published before expiration of the 6-month period during which the adoption notice must be
21 published, unless prior to that time, the committee meets and does not make the same objection. A copy of the
22 committee's notification to the agency must be included in the committee's records."

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24 **Section 3.** Section 2-4-402, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"2-4-402. Powers of committees -- duty to review rules.** (1) The administrative rule review committees
26 shall:

27 (a) review all proposed rules filed with the secretary of state; and

28 (b) hear agency presentations on the proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule as provided
29 in 2-4-302(4)(b).

30 (2) The appropriate administrative rule review committee may:

1 (a) request and obtain an agency's rulemaking records for the purpose of reviewing compliance with
2 2-4-305;

3 (b) prepare written recommendations for the adoption, amendment, or rejection of a rule and submit
4 those recommendations to the department proposing the rule and submit oral or written testimony at a rulemaking
5 hearing;

6 (c) require that a rulemaking hearing be held in accordance with the provisions of 2-4-302 through
7 2-4-305;

8 (d) institute, intervene in, or otherwise participate in proceedings involving this chapter in the state and
9 federal courts and administrative agencies;

10 (e) review the incidence and conduct of administrative proceedings under this chapter."

11 - END -