PROCEDURES FOR INTERIM COMMITTEE REVIEW OF AGENCY BILLS

March 2026

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- The Office of Program Planning and the Governor's office review and approve legislative proposals for executive branch agencies under the Governor's authority.
- Interim committees receive brief descriptions of proposed legislation approved for preintroduction for the 2027 session. The committee may ask questions and request more information. The review occurs between June and September 15, 2026.
- Preintroduction allows legislative staff to draft agency bills prior to session. This gives drafters a head-start and provides more time after the November elections for requests from individual legislators. Preintroduced bills may be scheduled for hearing early in the session while other bills are being drafted.
- Authorization to draft an agency bill is not an endorsement. If an interim committee does not approve an agency proposal, agencies or the Governor's Office will ask a holdover senator or an unopposed legislator to request the bill for the agency as one of their drafts. After the election, any legislator may request the proposal. Using this process reduces the requests from the Governor's Office to legislators for draft requests related to agency priorities.

Authorization to draft an agency bill is <u>not</u> an endorsement of the proposal.

- The preferred method for the committee is to authorize the drafting of the whole package of agency proposals in a single motion.
- Agency bill drafts authorized by an interim committee must be submitted to the LSD and identified by OBPP with the appropriate LC bill draft request number for processing no later than November 1, 2026, and preintroduced by 5 p.m. on December 15, 2026 (Joint Rule 40-40(5)(a)). Agency requested bills that are not preintroduced are cancelled. A legislator may still request the cancelled bill on behalf of the agency, subject to limitations placed on legislators and without the "By Request of" an agency header. Certain bills identified by the OBPP are exempted from the November 1 deadline.
- Except for bill drafts for requests by newly elected officials, an agency bill draft requested by an interim committee received by LSD for processing after November 1 loses its priority (Joint Rule 40-40(2)(b)). The bill is placed on hold, loses priority, and may not meet the preintroduction deadline.
- A preintroduced bill is assigned a bill number and is printed before the Legislature convenes in January 2027 with a line that indicates the bill is "By Request Of" the agency.

AGENCY BILL

HB 63: Extend application of bond validating act

SUMMARY | BILL TEXT | STATUS | $ FISCAL | AMENDMENTS | DOCUMENTS & LINKS

✓ Introduced (12/11/24) ✓ Passed (H) Committee (01/06/25) ✓ Passed House (01/10/25) ✓ Passed (S) Committee (01/10/25) ✓ Passed Senate (01/15/25)



Draft #	LC0275
Bill #	HB 63
Chapter #	27
Current Status	Chapter Number Assigned
Drafter	Hardin, Andria
Requester	Department of Administration by State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee
By Request Of	Department of Administration

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69th Legislature 2025 HB 63.1

HOUSE BILL NO. 63

INTRODUCED BY J. DOOLING

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE APPLICATION OF THE BOND VALIDATING ACT; AMENDING SECTION 17-5-205, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

COMMITTEE BILL

HB 109: Revise professional licensing laws to correct errata

SUMMARY | BILL TEXT | STATUS | $ FISCAL | AMENDMENTS | DOCUMENTS & LINKS

✓ Introduced (12/26/24) ✓ Passed (H) Committee (01/06/25) ✓ Passed House (01/15/25) ✓ Passed (S) Com



Draft #	LC0101
Bill #	HB 109
Chapter #	104
Current Status	Chapter Number Assigned
Drafter	Walker, Jameson
Requester	Economic Affairs Interim Committee
By Request Of	Economic Affairs Interim Committee

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69th Legislature 2025 HB 109.1

HOUSE BILL NO. 109

INTRODUCED BY S. FITZPATRICK

BY REQUEST OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSING TO CORRECT ERRATA; REVISING STATUTORY CITATIONS FOR LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, ADDICTION COUNSELORS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS; AND AMENDING SECTION 28-2-724, MCA."

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