

## Introduction to Policy Report

MCADSV will be providing you information on the Legislation we are working on, supporting, opposing, and tracking. Below is some basic information that might be old news to many of you, but helpful to anyone new to policy.

Pieces of proposed legislation are “bills.” Bills have numbers. “HB” refers to “House Bill”. For example, “HB 32” would refer to a bill that was introduced in the House. If that bill passes the House and is then heard in the Senate, it is still a House Bill (HB). It will be referred to as HB 32 as it moves through the process. A bill started in the Senate would be a Senate Bill (for example, SB 32). Before a bill is introduced, it is considered a bill draft. A piece of legislation with an “LC number” (for example, LC 24) is a bill draft. It means the legislation is not in play, but still being drafted and edited. LC 24 does not necessarily become HB 24 or SB 24. It is assigned a HB or SB number when introduced.

A bill that moves through the process successfully is voted on at least 6 times. A bill started in the House must be voted on in committee. If it passes, it goes on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, which means it is debated and voted upon on the House floor by all 100 members. If it passes, it goes on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. On 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, it must pass the House again, but there is no debate. The bill then moves to the Senate and repeats the process. First, it must pass a committee vote then move to the Senate floor to be debated and voted on by all 50 members. It must pass 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

A bill may run into many more twists and turns along the way. It might be “tabled” in committee—which essentially “kills” the bill. However, another vote may take the bill “off the table” which puts it back play. Along the way, amendments, welcome or unwelcome, might be placed on piece of legislation. A bill might be “killed” anywhere along the process. Therefore, you may be asked several times to act on behalf on the same piece of legislation.

MCADSV will work to either support, oppose, or monitor pieces of legislation. At times, we may seek to amend legislation if it is in the interests of our community. We will provide you with the necessary information to contact legislators and ask them to either support or oppose legislation. This is perfectly legal for you to do. If you come to testify on a bill, you cannot use federal funds to pay for the activity, but it is legal to do so.

For more information on how to lobby, how to keep track of bills throughout the Legislative session, and for further resources on lobbying as a nonprofit organization, please see the attached materials.

An initial list of bills we’re tracking is attached. Give us a heads-up if you hear of anything else we should have on the list. Feel free to contact us at any time for any legislative information!

For more information about the Legislature, please visit [www.leg.mt.gov](http://www.leg.mt.gov).

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