

SENATE BILL NO. 248

INTRODUCED BY J. BRENDEN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT TO A LEGISLATOR OR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MUST PROVIDE THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME, CITY OF RESIDENCE, AND STATE OF RESIDENCE; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Legislative public comment requirements. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), an individual may provide public comment only if that individual provides the individual's name, city of residence, and state of residence:

(a) in writing on any documents provided to a legislative committee as part of public comment during a legislative hearing;

(b) in writing on any other written correspondence provided to a legislator as part of public comment on any legislative matter;

(c) orally, if providing public comment to a legislator on any legislative matter via telephone; and

(d) orally, for the official record of a legislative committee, if testifying before that committee.

(2) This section does not apply to:

(a) a lobbyist registered under Title 5, chapter 7, unless that individual is acting solely on the individual's own behalf; or

(b) an individual appearing on behalf of an agency or other governmental entity.

(3) Except as provided by subsection (2), if an individual does not provide the information required under subsection (1), the public comment may not be accepted or considered by the legislator or legislative committee.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 5, chapter 5, and the provisions of Title 5, chapter 5, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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