

HOUSE BILL NO. 169

INTRODUCED BY T. MILLETT, L. SCHUBERT, B. USHER, T. TEZAK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING STANDARDS OF CONDUCT REGARDING  
POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR JUDGES AND JUDICIAL CANDIDATES."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Conduct of judges and judicial candidates.** (1) A judge or a judicial  
candidate may:

(a) attend or purchase tickets for dinners or other events sponsored by a partisan or independent  
candidate for nonjudicial public office; and

(b) seek, accept, or use endorsements from a political organization or a partisan or independent  
nonjudicial officeholder or candidate.

(2) If allowed by law to campaign with a party designation, a judge or a judicial candidate may:

~~(a) act as a leader in or hold an office in a political organization;~~

(A) make speeches on behalf of a political organization or any partisan or independent nonjudicial  
officeholder or candidate for public office;

(B) publicly endorse or oppose a partisan or independent candidate for any nonjudicial public  
office;

(C) solicit funds for, pay an assessment to, or make a contribution to a political organization or to or  
on behalf of any partisan or independent officeholder or candidate for public office; and

(D) publicly self-identify as a candidate of a political organization.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
integral part of Title 3, chapter 1, and the provisions of Title 3, chapter 1, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. IF A PART OF [THIS ACT] IS INVALID, ALL VALID PARTS THAT ARE



1 SEVERABLE FROM THE INVALID PART REMAIN IN EFFECT. IF A PART OF [THIS ACT] IS INVALID IN ONE OR MORE OF ITS  
2 APPLICATIONS, THE PART REMAINS IN EFFECT IN ALL VALID APPLICATIONS THAT ARE SEVERABLE FROM THE INVALID  
3 APPLICATIONS.

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