

Montana Women's Lobby

2009 Legislative Voting Record

Non Gender Insurance

SB 142 by Sen Gary Perry (R- Manhattan)
to repeal non-gender insurance.

In 1983, MWL was instrumental in removing gender bias in insurance rates, saving women thousands of dollars over their lifetimes. SD 142 was the 21st attempt to repeal this law.

Votes on this scorecard:

Senate: 2nd reading after the sponsor added an amendment that he claimed would exempt health care. Passed 27-23 on a party line vote.

House: Blast motion which failed 51-49.

MWL Position: Oppose

Status: Passed Senate, defeated in House.

About this Voting Record

The vote count that best reflects the opinions of the Senators and Representatives was chosen for this record. Sometimes lawmakers changed their vote between 2nd and 3rd reading. To read all the House and Senate votes, go to:

[http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws09/law0203w\\$.st](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/laws09/law0203w$.st)
[artup](#) and type the bill number into the appropriate boxes. Click on any underlined vote for the vote tabula.

Legislative Jargon

“Readings” for a Bill

To become law, a bill must pass three votes in both the House and Senate. The first vote is in a committee. 2nd reading is the debate and vote on the House or Senate floor. 3rd reading is the final vote that takes place without debate.

“Blast” Motion

When a bill does not pass the vote in committee, a “blast” motion can bring the bill out of committee for a vote on the floor. To be successful, a blast needs 60 votes in the House and 51 votes in the Senate.

Pay Equity

Freezing Minimum Wage

SB 253 by Sen Don Steinbeisser (R-Sidney)
would have allowed employers to count tips as wages when the minimum wage goes above \$6.90/hr.

Votes on this scorecard:

Senate: 2nd reading on Senate floor where the bill failed 21-29.

MWL Position: Oppose

Status: Defeated on Senate floor.

Pay Equity (continued)

Close Gender Wage Gap

HB 435 by Rep Franke Wilmer (D-Bozeman) **would have strengthened procedures to close the gap between men's and women's wages.**

Votes on this scorecard:

House: Blast motion that failed 50-50.

MWL Position: Support

Status: Defeated on House floor.

Family Law

Study Marriage

HJ 31 by Rep Tom McGillvray (R-Billings) **to study marriage.**

When his attempt to end no fault divorce died in committee, Rep McGillvray replaced it with this study resolution for an interim committee to study how to encourage people to stay married.

Votes on this scorecard:

House: 2nd reading where the bill passed 52-47.

Senate: 3rd reading where the bill failed 26-24.

MWL Position: Oppose

Status: Passed the House, defeated on Senate floor

Civil Rights

Require an American Indian on Parole Board

HB 591 by Rep Pease-Lopez (D-Billings) **requires the Parole Board to include at least one American Indian.**

Votes on this scorecard:

House: 2nd reading where it passed 72-28

Senate: 3rd reading where it passed 44-6

MWL Position: Support

Status: Has been signed by Governor into law.

Domestic Partner

HB 590 by Rep Franke Wilmer (D-Bozeman) **would have established a domestic partner registry for same and opposite sex couples.**

Votes on this scorecard:

House: Blast motion that failed 46-54

MWL Position: Support

Status: Defeated in the House.

First Nation Names

HJ 27 by Rep Franke Wilmer (D-Bozeman) **encourages educators, journalists and public speakers to learn and use the name of each Montana tribe in their own language.**

Votes on this scorecard:

House: 3rd reading 54-46

Senate 3rd reading 42-7

MWL Position: Support

Status: Signed by the Governor into law.

Health

Healthy Teen Act

HB 596 by Rep Teresa Henry (D-Missoula)
With the goal of preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, HB 596 would have established comprehensive, age-appropriate sex ed.

Votes on this scorecard:

House: Blast motion that failed 51-49

MWL Position: Support

Status: Defeated in the House.

Healthy Montana Kids

HB 157 by Rep Chuck Hunter (D-Helena)
to implement the Healthy Montana Kids initiative passed by 70% of the voters. This initiative would expand CHIP and Medicaid, for families earning up to 250% of poverty.

Votes on this scorecard:

House: 3rd reading 60-40

MWL Position: Support

Status: Full funding was restored, though a portion of the funding mechanism was diverted to the general fund. Contraceptive coverage was removed.

Economic Self Sufficiency

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

HB 360 by Rep Mary Caferro (D-Helena) to enact an EITC. Montana taxes families with lower incomes than any other state. The EITC is a refundable tax credit that would put money in the hands of people who need it the most.

Votes on this scorecard:

House: 3rd reading 60-40

MWL Position: Support

Status: In Conference Committee on HB 2.

How Vote Tabulations Were Chosen

MWL bills that advanced to a vote by the full House &/or the Senate were chosen for this Voting Record. During this divisive session, some major priorities, such as capping the payday loan interest rate, were defeated in committee, so do not appear on this voting record.