

# HB 87 - Consistency in Appointments, Qualifications, and Terms for All Boards and Board Members

*Representative Bill Mercer, HD 46*

- Currently, each licensing board in Montana has independent term limits and qualifications for appointment to their board, leading the Department to govern a patchwork of separate rules and regulations across its 32 boards.
- This legislation standardizes appointment procedures, terms, and qualifications for every board member across all boards and places these requirements and processes into one chapter of code.
- Specifically, the bill standardizes:
  - Appointments:
    - All board members must be appointed by the Governor with consent of the Senate.
    - In the event of an appointment to fill a vacancy that occurs prior to the expiration of a former member's full term, the new member may be confirmed in the next legislative session.
  - Terms:
    - A member may serve two consecutive four-year terms and may not be reappointed within 4 years of the member's second consecutive term.
    - A board chair may serve no more than four consecutive one-year terms.
  - Board member qualifications:
    - Be a resident of Montana and at least 18 years old.
    - Professional members of a board must be currently practicing in the profession or occupation – and have an active license – with the board on which they serve.
    - Public members of a board must not have any material financial interest in the activities regulated by the board on which they serve. They also shall not be – nor shall ever have been – a licensee of the board of which they are appointed.

## CONTACT

Aaron Larson  
CSD, *Policy Director*  
MTDLI  
406.444.3830  
aaron.larson@mt.gov

Eric Strauss  
ESD, *Administrator*  
MTDLI  
406.444.1574  
estrauss@mt.gov

