



AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO WHEN A PARTY TO A PROCEEDING IS ENTITLED TO A TRIAL BY JURY; PROVIDING THAT ANY PARTY IN A PROCEEDING CHALLENGING LEGISLATIVE ACTS OR BALLOT ISSUES MAY DEMAND A TRIAL BY JURY TO DETERMINE AN ISSUE OF FACT; AMENDING SECTION 27-8-302, MCA.

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

Section 1. Trial jury right in constitutional challenges -- definition. (1) When a proceeding challenges the constitutionality or other illegality of a legislative act or a proposed or adopted ballot issue, as defined in 13-1-101, and that proceeding involves the determination of an issue of fact, any party to the proceeding is entitled to a trial by jury on a determination of an issue of fact that is in dispute.

(2) When a proceeding under this chapter challenges the constitutionality or other illegality of a legislative act or a proposed or adopted ballot issue, as defined in 13-1-101, and that proceeding involves the determination of an issue of fact, any party to the proceeding is entitled to a trial by jury on a determination of an issue of fact that is in dispute.

Section 2. Section 27-8-302, MCA, is amended to read:

"27-8-302. Jury trial. (1) When a proceeding under this chapter involves the determination of an issue of fact, ~~such~~the issue may be tried and determined in the same manner as issues of fact are tried and determined in other civil actions in the court in which the proceeding is pending.

(2) When a proceeding under this chapter challenges the constitutionality or other illegality of a legislative act or a proposed or adopted ballot issue, as defined in 13-1-101, and that proceeding involves the determination of an issue of fact, any party to the proceeding is entitled to a trial by jury on a determination of an issue of fact that is in dispute."

Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 3, chapter 15, and the provisions of Title 3, chapter 15, apply to [section 1].

Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

Section 5. Applicability. [This act] applies to proceedings under [this act] for which a party to a civil action has demanded a jury trial on or after [the effective date of this act].

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 480, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE BILL NO. 480

INTRODUCED BY B. LER, G. OVERSTREET, R. GREGG, C. SCHOMER, M. THIEL, T. MILLETT, N. NICOL,
S. FITZPATRICK, K. ZOLNIKOV, B. MITCHELL

AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO WHEN A PARTY TO A PROCEEDING IS ENTITLED TO A TRIAL BY JURY; PROVIDING THAT ANY PARTY IN A PROCEEDING CHALLENGING LEGISLATIVE ACTS OR BALLOT ISSUES MAY DEMAND A TRIAL BY JURY TO DETERMINE AN ISSUE OF FACT; AMENDING SECTION 27-8-302, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE.