

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON JOINT APPROPS SUBCOM ON JUDICIAL BRANCH, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND JUSTICE

**Call to Order:** Chair Bill Mercer, on January 13, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 317A Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bill Mercer, Chair (R)  
Sen. David Howard, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Cristen Friede, Committee Secretary  
Marci Lewandowski, Legislative Fiscal Division  
Jacquie Simmons, Remote Meeting Coordinator

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:** Public Service Commission

08:02:01 Chair Mercer  
08:02:49 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting  
08:05:35 Rep. Nave  
08:05:43 Chair Mercer  
08:05:57 Marci Lewandowski, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
[EXHIBIT\(jch08a01\)](#)

08:06:11 Rep. Nave  
08:06:17 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
08:06:30 Chair Mercer  
08:09:34 Sen. Lynch  
08:10:33 Chair Mercer  
08:12:05 Sen. Osmundson  
08:12:25 Chair Mercer  
08:13:33 Vice Chair Howard  
08:15:11 Chair Mercer  
08:16:30 Commissioner James Brown, Public Service Commission (PSC)  
08:18:10 Chair Mercer  
08:18:17 Sen. Osmundson  
[EXHIBIT\(jch08a02\)](#)

08:20:27 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:20:43 Chair Mercer  
08:20:44 Vice Chair Howard  
08:23:54 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:24:47 Chair Mercer  
08:24:51 Sen. Lynch  
08:25:30 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:26:38 Chair Mercer  
08:26:43 Rep. Patelis  
08:32:28 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:32:34 Sen. Lynch  
[EXHIBIT\(jch08a03\)](#)

08:40:08 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:41:31 Chair Mercer  
08:43:02 Rep. Nave  
08:43:21 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:43:49 Rep. Nave  
08:43:54 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
08:44:25 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:44:57 Chair Mercer  
08:44:58 Vice Chair Howard  
08:48:57 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:50:33 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
08:51:06 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:51:25 Chair Mercer  
08:56:54 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:57:26 Sen. Osmundson

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JOINT APPROPS SUBCOM ON JUDICIAL BRANCH, LAW  
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08:57:59 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:58:32 Chair Mercer  
08:58:49 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:59:19 Luke Casey, Public Service Commission (PSC)  
08:59:32 Chair Mercer  
08:59:53 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
08:59:59 Luke Casey, PSC  
09:00:15 Chair Mercer  
09:00:48 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:00:56 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)  
09:01:36 Chair Mercer  
09:03:56 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:04:22 Chair Mercer  
09:04:26 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
09:04:54 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:05:04 Luke Casey, PSC  
09:07:02 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:07:34 Luke Casey, PSC  
09:07:41 Sen. Lynch  
09:12:05 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:12:21 Chair Mercer  
09:12:25 Repr. Patelis  
09:13:18 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:13:41 Chair Mercer  
09:13:54 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:14:36 Rep. Patelis  
09:14:53 Chair Mercer  
09:15:13 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:15:18 Chair Mercer  
09:15:30 Rep. Nave  
09:16:34 Chair Mercer  
09:17:00 Rep. Nave  
09:17:06 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:18:25 Mandi Hinman, Public Service Commission (PSC)  
09:20:17 Rep. Nave  
09:21:15 Mandi Hinman, PSC  
09:21:23 Commissioner Jennifer Fielder, Public Service Commission (PSC)  
09:22:33 Rep. Nave  
09:23:27 Commissioner Fielder, PSC  
09:26:02 Rep. Nave  
09:26:53 Chair Mercer  
09:27:52 Commissioner Brown, PSC  
09:28:06 Chair Mercer  
  
09:28:20 Recess  
09:47:47 Reconvened

- 09:47:47      **Motion:** Sen. Lynch moved that the House Joint Appropriation Subcommittee on the Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement, and Justice adopt the 2021 base budget as the starting point for the 2023 biennium budget for each program in the following agencies: Judicial Branch, Department of Justice, Public Service Commission, Office of the Public Defender, Department of Corrections **DO PASS.**
- 09:48:09      Chair Mercer
- 09:48:43      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 09:48:59      Chair Mercer
- 09:50:43      Daniel Zolnikov- self
- 09:56:10      Chair Mercer
- 09:56:28      Rep. Patelis
- 09:56:41      Daniel Zolnikov, self
- 09:57:23      Chair Mercer
- 09:57:24      Sen. Lynch
- 09:59:35      Daniel Zolnikov, self
- 10:01:46      Rep. Nave
- 10:02:30      Daniel Zolnikov, self
- 10:03:32      Rep. Nave
- 10:04:23      Daniel Zolnikov, self
- 10:05:20      Sen. Lynch
- 10:06:05      Daniel Zolnikov, self
- 10:08:03      Chair Mercer
- 10:10:05      Daniel Zolnikov,
- 10:10:06      Chair Mercer

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:11:22

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Cristen Friede, Secretary

cf

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([jch08aad.pdf](#))