

## 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 15, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 317A Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bill Mercer, Chair (R)  
Sen. David Howard, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Fiona Nave (R)

**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:** Office of Public Defenders

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08:02:52 Chair Mercer  
08:03:29 Marci Lewandowski, Legislator Fiscal Division (LFD)  
08:04:39 Chair Mercer  
08:05:00 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
08:05:43 Chair Mercer  
08:05:59 Rep. Nave joined the meeting  
08:08:05 Rhonda Lindquist, Office of Public Defender (OPD)  
08:31:54 Brett Schandelson, Office of Public Defender (OPD)  
08:36:41 Brian Smith, Office of Public Defender (OPD)  
08:42:29 Chair Mercer  
  
08:42:30 Recess  
08:45:53 Reconvened  
  
08:46:29 Chad Wright, Office of Public Defender (OPD)  
08:51:26 Dan Miler, Office of Public Defender (OPD)  
08:53:57 Emily Copeland, Office of Public Defender (OPD)  
08:57:22 Rhonda Linquist, OPD  
08:59:32 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
09:09:17 Chair Mercer  
09:09:36 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
09:27:19 Chair Mercer  
09:27:36 Sen. Lynch  
09:29:19 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
09:29:34 Chair Mercer  
09:29:59 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
09:31:00 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
09:31:22 Chair Mercer  
09:31:39 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
09:32:18 Chair Mercer  
09:32:28 Sen. Lynch  
09:33:10 Chair Mercer  
09:33:30 Christine Hultin, Office of Budget Program Planning, (OBPP)  
09:34:08 Chair Mercer  
09:34:29 Sen. Lynch  
09:37:04 Christine Hultin, OBPP  
09:37:11 Chair Mercer  
09:40:43 Christine Hultin,OBPP  
09:41:18 Chair Mercer  
09:54:21 Rhonda Linquist, OPD  
09:55:00 Rep. Patelis  
09:56:02 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
09:58:26 Chair Mercer  
09:58:46 Marci Lewandowski, LFD  
09:59:15 Chair Mercer  
  
10:01:05 Recess  
10:15:10 Reconvened

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10:15:24 Chair Mercer  
10:15:28 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
10:17:52 Rhonda Linqvist, OPD  
10:18:05 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
10:21:33 Chair Mercer  
10:23:04 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
10:25:40 Chair Mercer  
10:25:59 Rep. Patelis  
10:26:42 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
10:28:20 Chair Mercer  
10:29:08 Rhonda Linqvist, OPD  
10:30:01 Christine Hultin, OBPP  
10:30:27 Chair Mercer  
10:30:48 Rhonda Linqvist, OPD  
10:30:59 Chair Mercer  
10:31:43 Brian Smith, OPD  
10:36:05 Chair Mercer  
10:37:10 Brian Smith, OPD  
10:38:36 Chair Mercer  
10:42:09 Brian Smith, OPD  
10:44:11 Rhonda Linqvist, OPD  
10:44:24 Chair Mercer  
10:44:48 Chad Wright, OPD  
10:46:48 Chair Mercer  
10:48:31 Rhonda Linqvist, OPD  
10:49:55 Brian Smith, OPD  
10:51:48 Chair Mercer  
10:54:11 Brian Smith, OPD  
10:54:58 Chair Mercer  
10:57:12 Rep. Patelis  
10:57:19 Brian Smith, OPD  
10:58:25 Chair Mercer  
10:59:11 Rep. Patelis  
10:59:54 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
11:04:17 Chair Mercer  
11:04:42 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
11:05:44 Chair Mercer  
11:09:32 Rhonda Linqvist, Director OPD  
11:14:18 Brian Smith, OPD  
11:17:52 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
11:21:12 Chad Wright, OPD  
11:22:07 Dan Miller, OPD  
11:22:33 Chair Mercer  
11:23:40 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
11:24:48 Chair Mercer  
11:26:53 Lita Pepion, self  
11:29:19 Chair Mercer  
11:29:42 May Simmons, self  
11:35:27 Chair Mercer

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11:36:07 Rhonda Linqvist, OPD

11:36:17 Chair Mercer

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:37:35

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Cristen Friede, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([jch10aad.pdf](#))