

## 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 April 26, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 472 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)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Caitlin Cashman, Committee Secretary  
Marci Lewandowski, Legislative Branch  
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:** "For the purpose of considering the need for a supplemental appropriation for the office of Public Defender."

08:00:42 Chair Mercer

**Presentation from the Office of Public Defender**

08:01:49 Chair Mercer  
08:02:30 Director Rhonda Lindquist, Office of the State Public Defender (OPD)  
08:03:01 Christine Hultin, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)  
08:03:08 Chair Mercer  
08:03:11 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:09:03 Chair Mercer  
08:09:08 Brian Smith, Office of the State Public Defender (OPD)  
08:11:09 Chair Mercer  
08:11:17 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:11:43 Chair Mercer  
08:11:53 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:13:17 Chair Mercer  
08:13:30 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:13:48 Chair Mercer  
08:14:23 Director Linquist, OPD  
08:15:10 Chair Mercer

**Questions from the Committee**

08:15:19 Rep. Patelis  
08:15:51 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:16:26 Chair Mercer  
08:16:28 Rep. Nave  
08:17:01 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:17:24 Chair Mercer  
08:17:28 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:19:22 Rep. Nave  
08:19:25 Chair Mercer  
08:19:27 Vice Chair Howard  
08:19:36 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:19:45 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:20:12 Vice Chair Howard  
08:20:28 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:21:46 Vice Chair Howard  
08:21:58 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:22:12 Vice Chair Howard  
08:22:17 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:22:24 Chair Mercer  
08:22:29 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:23:28 Vice Chair Howard  
08:24:06 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:24:34 Chair Mercer  
08:24:37 Rep. Patelis  
08:25:06 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:25:27 Chair Mercer  
08:25:31 Sen. Lynch

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JOINT APPROPS SUBCOM ON JUDICIAL BRANCH, LAW  
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08:25:46 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:26:08 Chair Mercer  
08:26:12 Rep. Nave  
08:26:33 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:27:35 Chair Mercer  
08:29:17 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:30:16 Chair Mercer  
08:30:20 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:31:30 Chair Mercer  
08:32:01 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:32:44 Chair Mercer  
08:32:46 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:33:32 Chair Mercer  
08:35:24 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:36:44 Sen. Osmundson left the meeting.  
08:37:51 Chair Mercer  
08:38:41 Sen. Lynch  
08:38:50 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:39:12 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:40:38 Sen. Lynch  
08:40:59 Vice Chair Howard left the meeting.  
08:41:07 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:41:51 Sen. Lynch  
08:42:05 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:42:18 Sen. Lynch  
08:42:51 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:43:48 Sen. Lynch  
08:43:50 Chair Mercer  
08:45:13 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:45:19 Chair Mercer  
08:45:22 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:47:13 Chair Mercer  
08:47:46 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:49:11 Chair Mercer  
08:49:43 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:50:04 Chair Mercer  
08:50:38 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:51:20 Chair Mercer  
08:52:43 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:52:46 Brian Smith, OPD  
08:53:16 Chair Mercer  
08:54:22 Director Lindquist, OPD  
08:54:37 Chair Mercer

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 08:54:42

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Caitlin Cashman, Secretary

cc

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([jch79aad.pdf](#))