

Addendum to work plan - 2 Items:

Another statutory requirement, just introduced by House Bill 142, is for each interim committee to review advisory councils and reports to determine if they are serving their purpose or no longer necessary. Economic Affairs has the following statutory Advisory Councils:

- ★ The Tourism Advisory Council (Commerce)
 - The Economic Development Advisory Council (Commerce)
 - The Advisory Council on continuing education for insurance licensees (SAO)
 - The Advisory Council on risk management activities (SAO)
 - The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council (Agriculture)
 - The Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Advisory Council (Agriculture)
 - The Vertebrate Pest Management Advisory Council (Agriculture)
 - Advisory Council on special pesticide problems (Agriculture)
 - Organic Commodity Advisory Council (Agriculture)
- ★ The following reports are required. The Economic Affairs Committee either is specifically assigned to receive a report or the report is under an agency for which the EAIC is responsible:
 - State Agency and County Weed District Biennial Noxious Weed Report (Agriculture)
 - Montana Board of Investments Annual Report (Commerce)
 - Apprenticeship and Training Program Biennial Report (Dept. of Labor and Industry)
 - Livestock loss reduction report (to be made to Legislature and Board of Livestock)
 - Distressed Wood Industry report (Commerce)
- ★ The Economic Affairs Committee may want to include reviews of the following boards to determine whether they remain needed under current state and federal law:
 - State Workforce Investment Board (Dept. of Labor and Industry)
 - Board of Personnel Appeals (Dept. of Labor and Industry)
 - Board of Labor Appeals (Dept. of Labor and Industry)
 - Board of Housing (Commerce)
 - Coal Board (Commerce)
 - Board of Research and Commercialization Technology (Commerce)
 - Hard-rock Mining Impact Board (Commerce)

The amount of time needed in the work plan for a committee review can range from 1/2 hour to 1 hour each. The amount of time is that hour or portion of an hour multiplied by the number of advisory councils, reports, or boards that the Economic Affairs Committee wants to review. Spending 1/2 hour on all 20 councils, reports, and boards mentioned about would take 10 hours of committee time, or roughly 2 hours at 5 meetings.

Decision point: Choose some or all of the advisory councils, reports, and boards for review. Specify the preferred review time and whether public comment is needed regarding retention of a board or a report.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 26 also may influence the Economic Affairs Committee's workload, based on the SJR 26 request that the Legislative Finance Committee and the Legislative Council collaborate to undertake performance monitoring of certain issues. Those within the Economic Affairs Committee's purview, based either on a study assigned to the Economic Affairs Committee or an agency being one over which Economic Affairs has monitoring responsibilities, include:

- integration of Medicaid eligibility determination in the health insurance exchange;
- impacts of implementing components of federal health insurance reform on the state's Technology Services Division (under the Department of Administration);
- reports under SB 3 from the historic preservation officer, which are to go to an appropriate interim committee. Most likely these will go to the Education and Local Government Committee, but the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission traditionally has reported to the Economic Affairs Committee. This could be revised, based on the statutory requirement simply to report to the appropriate legislative interim committee (22-3-1002, MCA), although the report is based on an indirect administrative rate negotiated with the Department of Commerce. (Past reports have generally just described the commission's activities because the indirect cost rate is more of a given than a negotiation.)
- the State Auditor's Office and Insure Montana;
- the impact of PPACA on the state employee group plan with respect to its grandfathered plan status, the receipt and use of early retiree reimbursements, and constraints on benefit design and premium and cost share decisions; and
- the Department of Agriculture and the aquatic nuisance species benchmarks and report.

Legislative Services staff recommended that the Legislative Finance Committee take the lead on these issues, but the Economic Affairs Committee may choose to be more or less involved in monitoring, based on the above SJR 26 recommendations.

Decision point: Choose which recommendations in the SJR 26 study listed above that the Economic Affairs Committee wants to explore in more depth. Each aspect would take at least 1 hour of Committee time, possibly more if a panel and public comment are invited.