



# Commission on Sentencing

## 64th Montana Legislature

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August 20, 2015

TO: Members of the Commission on Sentencing  
FROM: Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division  
RE: September 2 organizational meeting

Welcome to the Commission on Sentencing. Your first meeting is on September 2. The meeting starts at **9 a.m.** in Room 137 of the Capitol in Helena. Senator Kristin Hansen is the Commission's senior senator and will preside over the meeting until the Commission elects a presiding officer and vice presiding officer.

A tentative meeting agenda and other meeting materials are enclosed in this packet. Please review the materials and bring the packet with you to the meeting. You will receive additional materials at the meeting, but I wanted you to have time to review the agenda and draft work plan before the meeting.

In addition to the tentative agenda and draft work plan, the meeting packet includes:

- a copy of Senate Bill No. 224, the legislation that established the Commission;
- a letter requesting justice reinvestment technical assistance from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center;
- a report by the National Conference of State Legislatures about sentencing structures in the states; and
- written public comment received before August 20.

The draft work plan proposes a study process for the Commission to complete its work and outlines how the Commission would receive technical assistance from the CSG Justice Center. Commissioners will have an opportunity to hear public comments about their work and the study process before they discuss, revise, and adopt a work plan. After it is adopted, the work plan should reflect the Commission's goals and needs for the next year. Within the draft work plan is a proposed meeting schedule. It suggests 5 additional meetings between the organizational meeting and fall 2016. Please come to the meeting with your calendars so the Commission can schedule one or more of those meeting dates.

Other meeting materials and study resources are posted on the commission's website, which is [www.leg.mt.gov/cos](http://www.leg.mt.gov/cos). I will send an email with links to the meeting materials to those of you for whom I have e-mail address.

To access the meeting materials at the website, click on the "Meeting Materials" link in the yellow box in the center of the homepage. Additional resources are available by clicking on "Committee Topics" in the blue box on the right-hand side of the homepage. Materials will be added to the Committee Topics page as the study progresses.

Julianne Burkhardt is the Commission's staff attorney and Kristina Liming will be the secretary. We look forward to working with you this interim and welcome you to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have. Julianne is available at 406-444-4025 or [jburkhardt@mt.gov](mailto:jburkhardt@mt.gov). I am available at 406-444-5367 or [rweiss@mt.gov](mailto:rweiss@mt.gov).