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ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE
68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS	HOUSE MEMBERS	COMMITTEE STAFF
Brad Molnar	Laurie Bishop	Trevor Graff - Research Analyst
Christopher Pope	Steven Galloway	Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary
Jacelyn Sterling	Gary Parry	Jameson Walker - Attorney
Barry Usher	Katie Zolnikov	
Daniel Zolnikov		

MINUTES LOG

August 01, 2023

Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at https://leg.mt.gov. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed.
Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Sen. Brad Molnar
Rep. Steven Galloway
Rep. Gary Parry
Sen. Christopher Pope
Sen. Barry Usher
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
Rep. Katie Zolnikov

MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Rep. Laurie Bishop

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:
Trevor Graff, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary
Jameson Walker, Attorney

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST ()

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:04:19 Brad Molnar-R called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

INTRODUCTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

09:06:17 Rep. Parry

09:06:58 Sen. Pope

09:08:43 Sen. Zolnikov

09:10:19 Rep. Galloway

09:12:00 Sen. Molnar

09:14:15 Rep. Zolnikov

09:15:18 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:15:44 Jacelyn Sterling, Committee Secretary

09:16:26 Trevor Graff, LSD

PURPOSE OF ETIC & STATUTORY DUTIES OVERVIEW

09:20:07 Trevor Graff

09:23:02 Jameson Walker

09:26:56 Sen. Pope

09:27:55 Jameson Walker

09:29:15 Rep. Parry

Motion

09:30:17 Rep. Zolnikov proposed to amend the rules to state any meeting regarding ballot initiatives to be an irregular meeting.

Vote

09:30:17 Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

09:33:05 Jameson Walker

Motion

09:34:39 Rep. Galloway moved to amend the rules to state all online witnesses give an introduction.

09:35:43 Trevor Graff

Motion

09:36:41 Rep. Galloway, moved to amend the rules to require blank screens on videos of online witnesses.

Discussion

09:37:10 Trevor Graff

09:37:52 Sen. Pope

09:38:15 Trevor Graff

09:38:38 Rep. Galloway

09:39:26 Sen. Zolnikov second the motion of Rep. Galloway.

09:39:47 Rep. Parry

09:40:18 Jameson Walker clarified Rep. Galloway's motion. Online participation will not have logos or background images during testimony. Online testimony participants will give home state and town as identification to the committee.

Vote

09:42:18 Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

Motion/Vote

09:42:51 Sen. Molnar moved to adopt the rules as amended.

09:43:13 Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

ETIC Presiding Officer Nomination and Election:

09:43:57 Rep. Parry nominated Rep. Zolnikov as the Presiding Officer for the committee.

09:44:22 Sen. Molnar nominated himself as Presiding Officer for the committee.

09:44:42 Rep. Zolinkov accepted the nomination from Rep. Parry for the Presiding Officer.

09:45:52 Sen. Molnar explained his nomination for Presiding Officer

Vote on Election of Rep. Zolnikov as Presiding Officer

09:49:57 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:50:10 Sen. Zolnikov nominated Sen. Pope as Presiding Vice Chair of Committee.

Vote:

09:50:10 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:51:14 Recessed

10:01:38 Reconvened

Introduction and Review of Interim Work Plan Options:

10:01:45 Trevor Graff

10:10:23 Presiding Officer Zolnikov

10:11:09 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association

10:11:37 Doug Hardy, General Manager of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative

10:12:39 Bruce Spencer, Montana Energy Business Alliance

10:13:59 Presiding Officer Zolnikov

10:14:15 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO

Committee Discussion

10:16:02 Sen. Molnar to Doug Hardy

10:20:40 Sen. Pope to Doug Hardy

10:24:03 Rep. Parry to Mark Lambrecht

10:25:39 Sen. Usher to Doug Hardy

10:27:27 Sen. Zolnikov on work plan.

10:30:05 Sen. Molnar to Trevor Graff

10:32:08 Rep. Galloway discussion of intended study bill.
10:33:52 Sen. Pope
10:35:56 Rep. Parry
10:36:43 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:38:01 Trevor Graff
10:40:39 Sen. Pope
10:42:26 Sen. Molnar
10:51:07 Presiding Officer Zolnikov reviewed the committee work metrics breakdown.
10:53:29 Sen. Zolnikov
10:54:12 Trevor Graff

ETIC Energy Publications Updates

10:53:29 Trevor Graff
10:57:03 Rep. Parry

10:58:18 Recessed
11:07:12 Reconvened

INTRODUCTION TO USB

11:07:30 Trevor Graff
11:21:30 Sen. Zolnikov
11:22:42 Doug Hardy, Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative
11:28:27 Sen. Pope
11:29:21 Trevor Graff
11:29:43 Sen. Pope
11:30:50 Doug Hardy
11:32:35 Rep. Parry
11:34:09 Trevor Graff
11:35:16 Rep. Parry
11:36:16 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
11:38:04 Trevor Graff
11:38:40 Sen. Zolnikov
11:39:13 Rep. Parry
11:40:47 Trevor Graff

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

11:41:17 Jameson Walker
11:49:48 Rep. Parry
11:50:54 Sen. Pope
11:51:02 Trevor Graff

Lunch Break

11:21:57

Public Service Commission Overview

13:00:07 James Brown, President, Public Service Commission (PSC)
13:27:58 Randall Pinocci, Commissioner, PSC
13:31:54 Annie Bukacek, PSC
13:33:55 Sen. Zolnikov
13:35:20 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy
13:36:59 Sen. Zolnikov
13:38:29 James Brown, PSC
13:41:04 Sen. Zolnikov
13:42:06 Daniel Sherwood, Railroad Safety Program Manager, PSC
13:43:20 Rep. Galloway
13:50:08 Rep. Parry
13:52:35 Sen.
14:05:01 Rep. Galloway
14:08:27 Sen. Zolnikov
14:11:46 Daniel Sherwood, PSC
14:13:34 Sen. Zolnikov
14:17:23 Rep. Galloway

MONTANA ENERGY INFORMATION

14:21:04 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Council
14:23:51 Chris Dorrington, Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
14:26:48 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
14:39:27 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy

ADOPTION OF WORK PLAN OPTIONS

14:42:05 Trevor Graff
14:43:05 Sen. Zolnikov
14:46:25 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
14:46:43 Rep. Galloway discussion of intended bill for ETIC to consider this interim
14:51:58 Sen. Pope
14:54:53 Rep. Galloway
14:58:06 Sen. Zolnikov
15:00:56 Sen. Pope
15:02:14 Presiding Officer Zolnikov

Motion

15:04:18 Sen. Usher made a motion on the study topic for the committee.

Vote:

15:05:18 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Discussion

15:06:53 Sen. Zolnikov
15:08:10 Sen. Pope

15:09:20 Rep. Galloway suggested the committee include 101 terminology training as part of future meetings.
15:10:20 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
15:10:37 Sen. Usher
15:11:49 Rep. Parry
15:13:22 Sen. Zolnikov
15:13:30 Trevor Graff
15:14:50 Sen. Zolnikov
15:16:06 Rep. Parry
15:18:28 Sen. Usher
15:20:04 Sen. Pope
15:22:01 Rep. Parry
15:23:19 Trevor Graff
15:25:41 Rep. Parry
15:26:43 Rep. Galloway
15:30:11 Presiding Officer Zolnikov went over September meeting topic, trends that drive energy transitions.
15:31:34 Rep. Parry
15:32:08 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
15:32:46 Trevor Graff
15:33:45 Sen. Zolnikov
15:34:39 Trevor Graff reviewed upcoming meeting dates.

Motion/vote

15:43:28 Sen. Usher moved to adopt the topics for September meeting and finalized upcoming dates. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

15:44:36 Sen. Molnar objecting to the suggested work plan requests, discussed interested topics for the committee.
15:48:25 Sen. Usher

Motion/Vote

15:48:38 Sen. Zolnikov moved to begin bill draft process researching and problem-solving railroad safety. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

15:50:13 Trevor Graff

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:51:27