



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Jason Ellsworth
Steve Fitzpatrick
Pat Flowers
Shannon O'Brien
Susan Webber

HOUSE MEMBERS

Kim Abbott
Alice Buckley
Derek Harvey
Rhonda Knudsen
Matt Regier
Sue Vinton

COMMITTEE STAFF

Allison Dunbar - Secretary
Todd Everts - Legal Division Director
Jerry Howe - Executive Director

MINUTES LOG

October 03, 2024
Capitol Room 102 & Zoom
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.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Matt Regier, Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:

Allison Dunbar, Secretary

Todd Everts, Legal Division
Director
Jerry Howe, Executive Director

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:00:00 Presiding Officer Matt Regier called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

13:01:10 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

COUNCIL BUSINESS

13:03:21 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

13:10:11 Rachel Weiss, Research Director, Legislative Services Division

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

13:11:55 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

13:11:57 Rachel Weiss (LSD)

13:12:41 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

13:13:22 Todd Everts, Legal Services Director, (LSD)

13:14:04 Jerry Howe, (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Council Questions/Discussion

13:16:04 None

COUNCIL BUSINESS

13:16:25 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division

Council Questions/Discussion

13:25:06 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

13:25:45 Angie Carter, Financial Manager, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

13:26:28 Sen. Susan Webber

13:27:12 Jerry Howe, (LSD)

13:27:20 Sen. Susan Webber

13:27:33 Angie Carter, (LFD)

13:27:42 Sen. Jason Ellsworth

13:28:04 Rep. Derek Harvey

13:29:46 Angie Carter

13:29:54 Vice Presiding Chair Pat Flowers

13:30:32 Angie Carter

13:30:49 Vice Presiding Chair Pat Flowers

13:31:05 Angie Carter

13:31:35 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen

13:31:59 Jerry Howe

13:33:11 Angie Carter

13:33:58 Todd Everts, (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
13:37:11 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
13:37:56 Todd Everts
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

LEGISLATIVE PRIVILEGE

13:39:09 Todd Everts, Legal Services Director, Legislative Services Division
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Council Questions/Discussion

13:59:08 Sen. Shannon O'Brien
14:00:50 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
14:01:20 Todd Everts, (LSD)
14:01:38 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
14:09:29 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick
14:10:00 Rep. Derek Harvey
14:11:23 Todd Everts
14:13:17 Rep. Derek Harvey
14:13:42 Sen. Shannon O'Brien
14:16:06 Todd Everts
14:18:11 Vice Presiding Officers Pat Flowers
14:19:03 Todd Everts
14:22:51 Sen. Susan Webber
14:23:08 Todd Everts
14:23:47 Rep. Kim Abbott
14:24:36 Todd Everts
14:25:51 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick
14:26:07 Todd Everts
14:26:35 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick
14:27:22 Jaret Coles, Deputy Legal Director, Legal Services Division
14:28:24 Sen. Shannon O'Brien
14:30:14 Todd Everts

Public Comment

14:31:12 Bob Jones, Helena, MT
14:36:03 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
14:40:09 Jim Stroush, Writer, and publisher

14:42:51 Mary Harlow, Helena, MT
14:45:34 Sen. MaryAnn Dunwell, Helena, MT
14:51:29 Sen. Andrea Olsen
15:01:19 Presiding Officer Regier

Motion

15:01:53 Sen. Kenneth Bogner made a motion for the council to adopt PD60. Rep. Harvey carried bill.

Vote

15:02:13 Carried Unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

15:03:04 Sen. Kenneth Bogner made a motion for council to adopt PD59. Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick will carry the bill.

Vote

15:03:40 Carried Unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion on the motion

15:04:33 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
15:04:57 Angie Carter

Motion

15:06:41 Sen. Kenneth Bogner made a motion for council to adopt PD32. Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers will carry the bill.

Discussion on the motion

15:07:29 Sen. Sue Vinton
15:07:45 Angie Carter
15:08:09 Rep. Knudsen
15:09:09 Jerry Howe

Vote

15:09:48 Carried Unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

15:10:36 Sen. Kenneth Bogner made a motion for council to adopt PD31. Sen. Susan Webber will carry the bill.

Vote

15:10:39 Carried Unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

15:11:41 Sen. Kenneth Bogner made a motion for council to adopt PD001. Sen. Susan Webber will carry the bill.

Vote

15:11:02 Carried Unanimously by voice vote.

MID RANGE SPACE IMPROVMENT REPORT

15:12:22 Joe Triem, Deputy Director, Legislative Fiscal Division

Council Questions/Discussion

15:15:01 Rep. Sue Vinton

15:17:19 Joe Triem

15:17:37 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

15:19:12 Joe Triem

HOUSE COMMITTEE RECLASSIFICATION

15:19:20 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

[EXHIBIT 12](#)

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Council Questions/Discussion

15:20:49 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

15:21:26 Todd Everts

15:22:24 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

15:22:58 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen

15:24:15 Rep. Sue Vinton

15:25:01 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

15:25:28 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

15:26:13 Todd Everts

Motion

15:26:37 Sen. Kenneth Bogner made a motion to recommend swapping classes for House Transmittal Committee and Fish Wild Life Park.

Vote

15:27:12 Carried Unanimously by voice vote.

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT

15:27:21 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division

Council Questions/Discussion

15:29:08 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT

15:30:04 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division

[EXHIBIT 14](#)

[EXHIBIT 15](#)

[EXHIBIT 16](#)
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)

15:30:55 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting

Council Question/Discussion

15:36:58 Sen. Shannon O'Brien left meeting
15:37:18 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
15:37:50 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
15:38:14 Sen. Shannon O'Brien, Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers, and Sen. Kenneth Bogner returned to the meeting.
15:48:05 Todd Everts
15:49:08 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

15:49:48 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division

Council Questions/Discussion

15:51:49 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
15:52:07 Dale Gow, LSD
15:52:39 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
15:53:21 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
15:53:40 Dale Gow
15:54:22 Jerry Howe
15:56:09 Dale Gow
15:56:34 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
15:57:03 Dale Gow

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

15:57:48 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division

Council Questions/Discussion

16:01:05 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
16:02:16 Dale Gow
16:02:50 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
16:03:07 Dale Gow
16:03:37 Joe Triem

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

16:04:55 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division
16:05:11 Sen. Kenneth Bogner and Rep. Derek Harvey and Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers left the meeting

Discussion

16:05:44 None

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

16:05:54 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:06:50 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

16:07:07 Dale Gow

16:07:51 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen

16:08:06 Dale Gow

16:08:27 Jerry Howe

16:08:37 Rep. Derek Harvey, Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers, and Sen. Kenneth Bogner returned to the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

16:09:29 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division

Discussion

16:10:18 Sen. Webber

16:10:39 Dale Gow

16:10:45 Sen. Webber

16:11:41 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

16:12:04 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division

16:12:43 Rep. Derek Harvey

Motion

16:13:46 Rep. Derek Harvey made a motion to approve the Electric Authentication Validation.

Discussion on the motion

16:14:02 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

16:14:25 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

Vote

16:15:05 Failed unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

16:15:24 Rep. Derek Harvey made a motion to cut budget in

Substitute Motion

16:18:24 Rep. Derek Harvey changed motion from 550k to 760k.

Discussion on Substitute Motion

16:18:39 Dale Gow
16:19:09 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
16:19:43 Rep. Harvey removed motion
16:20:01 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
16:20:29 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
16:20:44 Dale Gow

Motion

16:21:37 Rep. Derek Harvey made a motion to move forward fiber

Motion

16:22:15 Harvey Network

Motion

16:22:42 Rep. Derek Harvery made a motion to pass circuit

Motion

16:23:32 Rep. Derek Harvey Telephone made a motion to pass

Motion

16:24:09 Rep. Derek Harvey made a motion for customer relations to pass it

Discussion on Motions

16:24:36 Sen. Shannon O'Brien
16:25:00 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
16:25:56 Kyle Schumch- Senate Staff
16:28:20 Sen. Shannon O'Brien
16:30:11 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
16:30:35 Sen. Webber
16:31:43 Dale Gow
16:32:00 Vice Presiding Office Pat Flowers
16:32:34 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
16:34:23 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
16:35:02 Kyle Schmuck
16:36:33 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
16:37:06 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
16:39:12 Rep. Derek Harvey
16:39:26 Presiding Officer Matt Regier
16:39:37 Dale Gow
16:40:03 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
16:40:39 Dale Gow

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

16:42:06 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Legislative Services Division
16:43:15 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the room

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

16:44:47 Angie Carter, Fiscal Director, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)
16:48:33 Nikki Davison, Budget Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 20](#)
16:52:59 Angie Carter
16:53:30 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
16:54:21 Nikki Davison

Motion

16:54:49 Sen. Kenneth Bogner made a motion to add a 50k line item for Legislator education.

Vote

16:55:00 Carried unanimously

PRESENTATION OF THE LEGISLATURE'S 2027 BIENNIUM REPORT- Continued

16:55:24 Nikki Davison
[EXHIBIT 21](#)
[EXHIBIT 22](#)

Motion

16:55:40 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers made a motion to move along the Legislative Branch Budget, Governors Office Budget, Program planning office Budget with the approval of the Legislative Fiscal and Audit Divisions.

Vote

16:54:04 Carried unanimously

Discussion

16:56:44 Presiding Officer Regier
16:57:13 Dale Gow
[EXHIBIT 23](#)

Motion

16:57:43 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers made a motion to move the IT reserve account request forward and the IT Action Plan.

Discussion on the motion

16:58:05 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

Vote

16:58:28 Carried unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

16:59:20 None

Discussion

17:00:00 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

17:00:24 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

17:00:44 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

17:00:56 Rep. Sue Vinton

Legislative Calendar

17:03:17 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

17:05:55 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

17:06:28 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

17:06:29 Rep. Derek Harvey

17:06:55 Todd Everts

17:07:26 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:08:11