



STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Cuffe
Janet Ellis
Forrest Mandeville
Tom McGillvray
Wendy McKamey

HOUSE MEMBERS

Marta Bertoglio
Julie Dooling
Ross Fitzgerald
Gregory Frazer
Jim Hamilton
Kelly Kortum
Eric Matthews
Terry Moore
Ed Stafman

COMMITTEE STAFF

Rebecca Power - Research Analyst
Andria Hardin - Attorney
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

September 05, 2024
Rm 137 & 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. Julie Dooling, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Rebecca Power, Research Analyst
Andria Hardin, Attorney
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:30:35 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION: SENATE JOINT (SJ) 4 FINAL REPORT & PENSION REPORTS

08:31:52 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Draft SJ 4 Final Report

08:32:47 Rebecca Power, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

08:35:34 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
08:36:11 Rep. Eric Matthews
08:36:50 Rep. Jim Hamilton
08:37:57 Rebecca Power, LSD
08:38:24 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
08:38:34 Rebecca Power
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
08:39:59 Sen. Janet Ellis
08:40:36 Rebecca Power
08:41:51 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Draft 2024 Legislator's Guide to Montana's Public Employee Retirement Systems

08:42:07 Rebecca Power
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
08:44:12 Rep. Gregory Frazer joined the meeting.

Committee Questions / Discussion

08:45:02 Sen. Janet Ellis
08:46:11 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
08:47:07 Rep. Jim Hamilton

Public Comment

08:47:22 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

08:48:13 Rep. Jim Hamilton
08:48:38 Rebecca Power
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
08:53:31 Sen. Janet Ellis
08:54:21 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
08:55:00 Rep. Jim Hamilton
08:55:43 Rebecca Power
08:56:28 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
08:56:40 Sen. Janet Ellis
08:57:33 Rebecca Power
08:57:49 Rep. Jim Hamilton
08:58:47 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
08:58:54 Rebecca Power
08:59:08 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
08:59:21 Rep. Jim Hamilton
08:59:25 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
08:59:54 Rebecca Power
09:00:26 Sen. Janet Ellis
09:01:06 Rebecca Power
09:02:42 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
09:03:20 Rebecca Power
09:05:01 Rep. Jim Hamilton
09:05:27 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Motion

09:06:17 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved to approve the SJ 4 Final Report as amended during committee discussion.

Discussion on the Motion

09:06:28 None

Vote

09:07:05 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

09:07:17 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved to approve the Draft 2024 Legislator’s Guide to Montana’s Public Employee Retirement Systems as presented to the committee.

Discussion on the Motion

09:07:45 None

Vote

09:08:00 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION: PROVISIONAL BILL DRAFTS

09:08:05 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Provisional Draft (PD) 20: Disclosure Requirements for the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Election Communications

09:08:23 Rebecca Power, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

09:11:28 Rep. Eric Matthews left the meeting.

09:11:30 Rep. Jim Hamilton left the meeting.

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:12:41 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

09:12:56 Sen. Janet Ellis

09:13:31 Andria Hardin, Staff Attorney, LSD

09:14:24 Chris Gallus, Commissioner of Political Practices, Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

09:15:02 Shelley Hendricksen-Scott, Chief Legal Counsel, COPP

09:15:15 Commissioner Chris Gallus, COPP

09:16:09 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
(See Exhibit 7)

09:16:26 Shelley Hendricksen-Scott, COPP

09:17:31 Sen. Janet Ellis

09:18:01 Rebecca Power, LSD

09:19:26 Shelley Hendricksen-Scott

09:20:12 Andria Hardin, LSD

09:22:49 Sen. Janet Ellis

09:23:47 Andria Hardin

09:25:21 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

09:26:24 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

09:26:59 Rep. Ed Stafman

09:28:31 Andria Hardin

09:30:10 Sen. Janet Ellis
(See Exhibit 7)

09:31:04 Rebecca Power

09:32:13 Sen. Mike Cuffe

09:37:47 Sen. Janet Ellis

09:40:29 Shelley Hendricksen-Scott

09:40:54 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

09:41:18 Rebecca Power

09:41:41 Commissioner Chris Gallus

09:44:43 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

09:45:07 Andria Hardin

Public Comment

09:47:07 Charles Denowh
(See Exhibit 7)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:51:37 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
(See Exhibit 7)

09:53:20 Sen. Mike Cuffe

09:54:55 Rep. Ed Stafman

09:56:46 Rebecca Power

09:57:13 Rep. Ed Stafman

09:58:26 Andria Hardin

09:59:48 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Motion

10:00:01 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved to approve PD 20 as presented to the committee.

Substitute Motion

10:00:21 Sen. Janet Ellis made a substitute motion to amend PD 20 before considering the bill for approval by the committee.

Discussion on the Motion

10:01:00 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

10:01:47 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum

10:01:58 Sen. Janet Ellis

10:02:58 Rebecca Power

10:03:29 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

10:03:43 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

10:04:08 Rebecca Power

Substitute Motion

10:05:01 Sen. Janet Ellis restated the motion to adopt PD 20 with the proposed change to the language on Page 4, Section 3, Subsection 4, Line 16 to say 'and up to 10,000' regarding punitive damages.

Discussion on the Motion

10:05:47 Rebecca Power

10:06:14 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

10:06:39 Rep. Ed Stafman

Vote

10:07:23 Carried 7-3 by roll call vote with Rep. Bertoglio, Sen. Cuffe, and Sen. Mandeville voting 'no'.

PD 21: Local Government Ballot Issues

10:08:48 Rebecca Power
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:11:04 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
10:11:13 Sen. Janet Ellis
10:11:51 Rebecca Power

Public Comment

10:12:25 None

Motion

10:12:45 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved to approve PD 21 as presented to the committee.

Discussion on the Motion

10:12:50 None

Vote

10:13:05 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

PD 22: Online Voter Registration

10:13:37 Rebecca Power
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:17:07 Sen. Mike Cuffe
10:17:29 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
10:17:54 Rep. Ed Stafman
10:20:17 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
10:21:29 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
10:21:43 Rebecca Power
10:22:07 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
10:24:32 Rebecca Power
10:24:57 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
10:25:30 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Motion

10:25:51 Rep. Ed Stafman moved to approve PD 22 with an amendment regarding signature verification.

Discussion on the Motion

10:26:39 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
10:26:48 Sen. Mike Cuffe

Public Comment

10:26:57 None

Motion

10:27:18 Rep. Ed Stafman restated the motion to approve PD 22 with an amendment regarding signature verification.

Vote

10:27:55 Carried 7-3 by voice vote with Rep. Fitzgerald, Sen. Cuffe, and Sen. Mandeville voting 'no'.

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:28:32 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

10:29:09 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

10:29:14 **Carrier Assigned for PD 20:** Sen. Janet Ellis

10:29:26 **Carrier Assigned for PD 21:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville

10:29:36 Rep. Ed Stafman

10:29:48 Rebecca Power

10:30:01 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

10:30:05 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

10:30:08 **Carrier Assigned for PD 22:** Sen. Wendy McKamey

10:30:30 **Recessed**

10:46:11 **Reconvened**

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION: DRAFT FINAL REPORTS

10:46:15 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Draft Election Security Study Final Report

10:46:29 Rebecca Power, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:48:07 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

10:48:58 Rebecca Power, LSD

Draft House Joint (HJ) 23 Findings & Recommendations

10:49:26 Rebecca Power

[EXHIBIT 12](#)

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:50:12 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

10:50:17 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Public Comment

10:52:54 None

Motion

10:53:28 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved to approve the Draft Election Security Study Final Report as presented to the committee and to approve the Draft HJ 23 Findings & Recommendations Report as presented to the committee.

Discussion on the Motion

10:53:40 None

Vote

10:53:44 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

UPDATE FROM THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

10:54:25 Sen. Mike Cuffe
[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:08:46 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
11:09:06 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
11:09:58 Sen. Mike Cuffe
(See Exhibit 14)
11:21:01 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Public Comment

11:23:27 None

REQUIRED REPORTS

11:23:46 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Report on Information Technology Activities

11:24:05 Kevin Gilbertson, State CIO, Department of Administration (DOA)
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:30:00 Sen. Mike Cuffe
11:30:05 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Capitol Complex Advisory Council Report

11:30:43 Misty Ann Giles, Director, DOA
[EXHIBIT 17](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:32:25 None

Employee Incentive Program Report

11:32:40 Misty Ann Giles, DOA
[EXHIBIT 18](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:34:04 None

Public Comment

11:34:12 None

Statewide Election Security Report

11:34:56 Angela Nunn, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State's Office (SOS)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:38:40 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
11:38:47 Angela Nunn, SOS
11:40:41 Sen. Mike Cuffe
11:41:43 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
11:41:50 Angela Nunn
11:42:01 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
11:42:09 Angela Nunn
11:42:33 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Report on the Use of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Funds

11:42:47 Angela Nunn
[EXHIBIT 20](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:46:04 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
11:46:35 Angela Nunn
11:47:19 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
11:47:32 Angela Nunn
11:48:03 Sen. Mike Cuffe
11:48:22 Angela Nunn

Public Comment

11:48:53 None

11:49:44 **Recessed**

13:00:27 **Reconvened**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER SAVA'S JURISDICTION

13:00:36 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
[EXHIBIT 21](#)
13:01:57 Vincent Pontillo, 2nd US Cavalry Association of Helena, 501C3 Veterans Living
History Organization
[EXHIBIT 22](#)
13:04:00 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION (MIC3) UPDATE

13:06:58 Elise Arntzen, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

[EXHIBIT 23](#)

13:08:01 Kiera Moog, Family Engagement Specialist, OPI

[EXHIBIT 24](#)

[EXHIBIT 25](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:13:28 None

Public Comment

13:13:44 None

VETERANS GUARDIAN OVERVIEW

13:14:23 William Taylor, Chief Operating Officer, Veterans Guardian VA Claim Consulting

[EXHIBIT 26](#)

[EXHIBIT 27](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:30:36 Rep. Ed Stafman

13:31:19 William Taylor, Veterans Guardian VA Claim Consulting

[EXHIBIT 28](#)

[EXHIBIT 29](#)

13:37:00 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

13:37:45 William Taylor

13:38:52 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

13:39:20 William Taylor

13:45:21 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

13:45:42 William Taylor

Public Comment

13:47:47 Janine Mahn, Bureau Chief, Veterans Services Program, Montana Veterans Affairs Division (MVAD)

13:48:09 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

13:48:39 Roger Hagan

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS (DMA) AGENCY UPDATE & LEGISLATION PROPOSALS

13:50:23 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

[EXHIBIT 30](#)

[EXHIBIT 31](#)

[EXHIBIT 32](#)

[EXHIBIT 33](#)

DMA Agency Update & Legislation Proposals

13:51:16 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Adjutant General, Montana National Guard and Director, DMA

(See Exhibits 30, 31, 32, and 33)

Information Request: Veterans' Service Officer Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and Budget

- 14:17:17 Kelly Ackerman, Administrator, Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD)
(See Exhibit 33)
- 14:27:44 Janine Mahn, Bureau Chief, Veterans Services Program, MVAD

Committee Questions / Discussion

- 14:32:21 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
- 14:33:08 Janine Mahn, MVAD
- 14:35:10 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
- 14:36:01 Kelly Ackerman, MVAD
- 14:36:23 Taryn Phillips, Budget Analyst, MVAD
- 14:37:05 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
- 14:37:43 Major General J. Peter Hronek, DMA
- 14:39:31 Rep. Ed Stafman
- 14:40:09 Kelly Ackerman
- 14:42:09 Major General J. Peter Hronek
- 14:43:43 Rep. Ed Stafman
- 14:44:31 Kelly Ackerman
- 14:47:22 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 14:48:13 Major General J. Peter Hronek
- 14:49:34 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
- 14:49:47 Major General J. Peter Hronek

Public Comment

- 14:50:57 None

Discussion

- 14:51:48 Major General J. Peter Hronek

Motion

- 14:52:07 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved for the committee to adopt all 5 legislation proposals from DMA for pre-introduction.

Discussion on the Motion

- 14:52:27 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
- 14:52:59 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Vote

- 14:54:06 Carried 9-1 by voice vote with Sen. Mandeville voting 'no'.

REQUIRED REPORTS – Continued

- 14:54:19 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Results of the Decennial Veterans' Long-Term Care Needs Study

- 14:54:39 Lindsey Carter, Interim Administrator, Senior and Long-Term Care, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
[EXHIBIT 34](#)
[EXHIBIT 35](#)
- 15:24:45 Kelly Ackerman, Administrator, Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD)
- 15:27:13 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Adjutant General, Montana National Guard and Director, Department of Military Affairs

Committee Questions / Discussion

- 15:27:37 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
- 15:28:24 Lindsey Carter, DPHHS
- 15:34:27 Kelly Ackerman, MVAD
- 15:35:35 Sen. Janet Ellis
- 15:35:44 Lindsey Carter
- 15:36:09 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

Public Comment

- 15:36:21 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

- 15:36:36 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

- 15:37:29 No administrative rules had been submitted since the July SAVA meeting, so there was not a rule review memo for the September meeting.

MEETING WRAP UP

- 15:37:39 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling
- 15:37:58 Rebecca Power, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
- 15:38:34 Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
- 15:38:47 Rebecca Power, LSD
- 15:39:00 Rep. Ed Stafman
- 15:39:23 Rebecca Power
- 15:39:26 Presiding Officer Julie Dooling

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:39:37