



CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

John Esp
Dennis Lenz
Cora Neumann
Mike Yakawich

HOUSE MEMBERS

Melody Cunningham
Jodee Etchart
SJ Howell
George Nikolakakos
Melissa Nikolakakos

COMMITTEE STAFF

Milly Allen – Lead Staff
Maddie Krezowski – Legal Staff
Emily McKay – Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 10, 2026
Day 2 - Capitol Room 152 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Minutes logs provide an annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of a meeting and the time at which a topic is presented or discussed, a motion made, or a vote taken. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion in the video. The minutes log is only a guide to the video of the meeting. The official record of the meeting is the video. Minutes logs can be accessed at <https://committees.legmt.gov> and videos can be accessed at <https://media.legmt.gov>.

For more information, please contact:

The Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for policy committees;
The Legislative Fiscal Division at 406-444-2986 for fiscal committees; or
The Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122 for the Legislative Audit Committee.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Jodee Etchart, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. SJ Howell, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Melody Cunningham (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Cora Neumann (D) – Via Zoom
Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos (R)
Sen. Mike Yakawich (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Milly Allen, Lead Staff
Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff
Emily McKay, Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:06:41 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

SJ 48 - TOBACCO AND MARIJUANA FUNDS

Marijuana Revenue Fund,

09:07:34 Joseph Baan, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

[EXHIBIT 22](#)

09:13:53 Stacy Campbell, Administrator, Public Health and Safety Division, Department Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

[EXHIBIT 23](#)

[EXHIBIT 24](#)

[EXHIBIT 25](#)

Public Comment

09:18:54 Leanna Troesh, Safe Montana

09:25:29 Jackie Semmens, State Government Relations Director, American Heart Association

09:27:10 Jean Branscum, Chief Executive Officer, Montana Medical Association

09:30:14 Dena Hete

09:35:46 Karen Sylvester, Certified Prevention Specialist, Yellowstone County

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:38:13 Sen. Mike Yakawich

09:38:52 Stacy Campbell, DPHHS

09:40:06 Rep. Melody Cunningham

09:40:54 Stacy Campbell, DPHHS

09:41:08 Nicole Aune, Tobacco Use Prevention Section Supervisor, DPHHS

09:42:38 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

09:42:49 Joe Baan, LFD

09:43:23 Rep. Melody Cunningham

09:43:46 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:44:09 Sen. John Esp

DPHHS Response Regarding MAR NO. 2026-315.1

09:46:57 Stacy Campbell, Administrator – Public Health and Safety Division, Department Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:48:21 Rep. Melody Cunningham
09:49:18 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
09:50:44 Robert Lishman, Attorney, Legal Affairs, DPHHS

09:52:38 **Recessed**

10:04:04 **Reconvened**

SJ 48 - RISK VS. ODDS IN PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

10:04:12 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 26](#)

Public Comment

10:11:29 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:11:38 None

Public Comment

10:12:06 Ben Forsyth
[EXHIBIT 27](#)

SJ 13 - MONTANA'S STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

10:17:22 Laura Schultz, Administrator, Montana Emergency Communications Program,
Department of Justice (DOJ)

10:24:53 Jamin Howell, Technical Manager – Montana Emergency Communications
Program, DOJ

[EXHIBIT 28](#)

[EXHIBIT 29](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:31:09 Sen. John Esp
10:31:31 Jamin Howell, DOJ
10:35:02 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
10:36:05 Jamin Howell, DOJ
10:36:59 Laura Schultz, DOJ
10:43:30 Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos
10:44:06 Jamin Howell, DOJ

Public Comment

10:47:29 Ninette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers
Association
10:51:08 Shelby Demars, Montana Police Protective Association
10:53:29 Matt Gilg, Yellowstone County

Committee Questions / Discussion

- 10:54:32 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
- 10:55:06 Jamin Howell, DOJ

SJ 48 - HEALTH IMPACTS OF MARIJUANA USE: RESEARCH SUMMARY

- 10:57:21 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 30](#)
[\(See Exhibit 17\)](#)
- 10:58:30 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart left the meeting and Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell assumed the Chair.

Committee Questions / Discussion

- 11:10:13 Rep. Melody Cunningham
- 11:10:46 Milly Allen, LSD
(See Exhibit 30 and 17)
- 11:12:07 Sen. John Esp
- 11:12:15 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart rejoined the meeting and assumed the Chair.

Public Comment

- 11:14:47 Carrie Krepps, Executive Director, Florence Crittenton Family Services & Board Member, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana
- 11:17:13 Leanna Troesh, Safe Montana
(See Exhibit 30)
- 11:21:16 Judith Mortensen, Great Falls
[EXHIBIT 31](#)
- 11:24:35 Ron Paulick, Great Falls
[EXHIBIT 32](#)
- 11:25:09 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association
- 11:27:30 **Recessed**
- 11:36:32 **Reconvened**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE THAT IS NOT ON THIS AGENDA

- 11:37:06 Elizabeth Gilg
- 11:40:58 Matt Gilg, Yellowstone County

Committee Questions / Discussion

- 11:44:52 Sen. John Esp
- 11:48:03 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

11:48:55 **Recessed**

13:11:10 **Reconvened**

13:11:11 Sen. Cora Neumann did not return after lunch.

WORK SESSION (2 of 2)

13:11:16 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

Bill Draft Request: Statewide THC Education and Prevention Initiative

13:11:31 Sen. Mike Yakawich

[EXHIBIT 33](#)

Motion

13:24:20 Sen. Mike Yakawich moved for staff to draft a Statewide THC Education and Prevention Initiative Bill to review at the meeting in May.

Discussion on the Motion

13:24:49 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

13:27:22 Rep. Melody Cunningham

13:28:22 Rep. Mike Yakawich

13:30:55 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

13:32:48 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

13:32:57 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

13:34:32 Sen. Mike Yakawich

13:34:53 Sen. John Esp

13:35:42 Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos

13:36:27 Sen. Mike Yakawich

13:37:26 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

Vote

13:37:46 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Bill Draft Request Title: Unregulated Intoxicating Substances Control Act

13:38:56 Sen. Mike Yakawich

[EXHIBIT 34](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:41:27 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

13:43:34 Sen. John Esp

13:44:01 Sen. Mike Yakawich

13:44:30 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

13:44:47 Sen. Dennis Lenz

13:45:54 Rep. Melody Cunningham

13:46:56 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
13:46:59 Sen. Mike Yakawich

Request for Information from the Department

13:47:31 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:50:47 Sen. John Esp
13:52:11 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
13:53:18 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
13:53:36 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
13:54:00 Milly Allen, LSD
13:55:05 Sen. John Esp

Proposed Rule Language: Child and Adolescent Day Treatment Programs

13:55:54 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

[EXHIBIT 35](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:00:41 Sen. Mike Yakawich
14:01:22 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
14:01:57 Rep. Melody Cunningham
14:02:31 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:02:57 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:03:11 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:04:44 Sen. John Esp
14:06:09 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:08:10 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:08:46 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
14:09:55 Milly Allen, LSD

Motion

14:10:59 Sen. Mike Yakawich moved to move forward with the Proposed Rule Language: Child and Adolescent Day Treatment Program presented by Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

Discussion on the Motion

14:11:20 None

Vote

14:11:12 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Direction to Staff: Study Findings and Recommendations
EMS Study and Marijuana Study**

14:12:12 Milly Allen, LSD
14:12:57 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:15:09 Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos
14:15:29 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:16:52 Rep. Melody Cunningham
14:17:21 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:17:48 Milly Allen, LSD
14:19:17 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:20:14 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:20:56 Milly Allen, LSD

Baby Box Rules

14:21:25 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:22:29 Sen. Dennis Lenz
14:22:56 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

Additional Discussion

14:23:14 Milly Allen, LSD
14:25:15 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:25:30 Sen. John Esp
14:25:53 Sen. Mike Yakawich

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:26:29