



ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Ellie Boldman
Josh Kassmier
Mark Noland

HOUSE MEMBERS

Ed Buttrey
Brian Close
Jamie Isaly
Brandon Ler
Nelly Nicol
Peter Strand
Morgan Thiel

COMMITTEE STAFF

Maddelyn Black - Secretary
Jameson Walker – Legal Staff
Matthew Weaver – Lead Staff

MINUTES LOG

July 22, 2025
Capitol Room 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. Brandon Ler, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Rep. Ed Buttrey (R)
Rep. Brian Close (D)
Rep. Jamie Isaly (D)
Sen. Josh Kassmier (R)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Rep. Peter Strand (D)
Rep. Morgan Thiel (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Maddelyn Black, Secretary, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, LSD

Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, LSD

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

09:02:29 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.
The committee secretary took roll.

INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

09:03:42 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
09:04:23 Rep. Brandon Ler
09:04:35 Sen. Josh Kassmier
09:04:47 Rep. Jamie Isaly
09:05:02 Sen. Ellie Boldman
09:05:42 Sen. Mark Noland
09:06:04 Rep. Peter Strand
09:06:22 Rep. Brian Close
09:06:35 Rep. Morgan Thiel
09:06:53 Rep. Nelly Nicol
09:07:13 Rep. Ed Buttrey
09:07:46 Maddelyn Black, Secretary, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:08:01 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, LSD
09:08:22 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, LSD

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

09:08:35 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
09:10:08 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
09:12:48 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, LSD
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:29:26 None

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW - Continued

09:29:52 Angie Carter, Financial Director, LSD
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
09:31:18 Matthew Weaver, LSD
09:35:16 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:35:22 None

Public Comment

09:35:54 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Labor & Industry

09:36:14 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

09:36:39 **Recessed**

09:51:26 **Reconvened**

WORK SESSION – COMMITTEE RULES AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

09:51:33 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Motion

09:51:56 Sen. Mark Noland moved to adopt the 2025 Interim Committee Rules.

Discussion on the Motion

09:52:05 Sen. Ellie Boldman

09:52:20 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

09:52:26 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:52:37 Sen. Mark Noland

Vote

09:52:50 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

WORK SESSION – COMMITTEE RULES AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Continued

09:53:07 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Motion

09:53:44 Rep. Brandon Ler moved to nominate Sen. Mark Noland to be the Presiding Officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

Vote

09:53:59 Failed 5 – 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Brian Close, Rep. Peter Strand, Sen. Ellie Boldman, Rep. Jamie Isaly, and Sen. Josh Kashmier voting 'no'. Rep. Ed Buttrey was not present for the vote.

Discussion on the Vote

09:55:50 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, LSD

Motion

09:56:04 Sen. Ellie Boldman moved to nominate Sen. Josh Kassmier to be the Presiding Officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

09:57:14 Sen. Josh Kassmier
09:57:28 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Motion

09:57:33 Sen. Josh Kassmier moved to nominate Rep. Brandon Ler to be the Presiding Officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

09:57:53 Sen. Ellie Boldman

Motion

09:58:24 Rep. Nelly Nicol moved to nominate Sen. Mark Noland to be the Presiding Officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

09:59:18 Rep. Ed Buttrey
09:59:33 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
09:59:49 Sen. Ellie Boldman
09:59:58 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Motion

10:00:30 Rep. Nelly Nicol moved to nominate Sen. Mark Noland to be the Presiding Officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

10:00:36 Acting Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Vote

10:00:49 Regarding motion for Rep. Brandon Ler to be presiding officer of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee. Carried 6 – 5 with Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Rep. Brandon Ler, Rep. Nelly Nicol, Rep. Morgan Thiel, and Sen Mark Noland voting ‘no’.

WORK SESSION – COMMITTEE RULES AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Continued

10:03:10 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Motion

10:04:07 Sen. Josh Kassmier moved to nominate Sen. Ellie Boldman to be the Vice Presiding Officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

Motion

10:04:29 Rep. Nelly Nicol moved to nominate Rep. Jamie Isaly to be the Vice Presiding Officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

10:04:45 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:04:53 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:05:19 Sen. Ellie Boldman

Vote

10:06:00 By acclamation Sen. Ellie Boldman is the vice presiding officer for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

WORK SESSION – COMMITTEE RULES AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Continued

10:06:20 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:06:48 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
10:08:25 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
10:08:36 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:08:47 Rep. Morgan Thiel
10:08:57 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler appointed Rep. Jamie Isaly and Rep. Morgan Thiel to be liaisons to the Montana State Fund.

WELCOME TO EAIC

10:09:30 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
10:12:56 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:13:27 Matthew Weaver, LSD
10:15:09 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:16:10 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:16:20 Jameson Walker, LSD

WELCOME TO EAIC - Continued

10:16:23 Matthew Weaver

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:19:35 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
10:19:54 Matthew Weaver
10:22:26 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

WELCOME TO EAIC - Continued

10:23:40 Matthew Weaver

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:24:48 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:24:53 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

WELCOME TO EAIC - Continued

10:28:10 Matthew Weaver

Public Comment

10:29:05 Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

10:29:08 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES

10:31:22 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABCD)

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Public Comment

10:44:35 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association

10:45:30 Shauna Helfert, Gaming Industry Association

10:46:35 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Distillers Guild

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:47:41 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

10:48:01 Becky Schlauch, ABCD

10:48:13 Brendan Beatty, Director, Department of Revenue (DOR)

10:53:19 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

10:53:30 Sen. Mark Noland

10:54:40 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

10:54:45 Director Brendan Beatty, DOR

10:58:07 Rep. Jamie Isaly

10:58:40 Director Brendan Beatty

11:00:52 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

11:02:03 Director Brendan Beatty

11:04:59 Rep. Peter Strand

11:05:38 Director Brendan Beatty

11:06:55 Rep. Brian Close

11:07:10 Director Brendan Beatty

11:09:14 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

11:09:21 Director Brendan Beatty

11:10:26 Sen. Mark Noland

11:11:37 Director Brendan Beatty

11:13:22 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

11:16:14 Kristan Barbour, Administrator, Cannabis Control Division (CCD)

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:20:21 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
11:23:26 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:23:35 Kristan Barbour, CCD

Public Comment

11:26:11 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostic Laboratory
11:27:40 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild
11:31:45 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association
11:35:26 EJ Redding, Bloom Dispensary
11:37:49 Mariah Bond, Executive Director, Montana Cannabis Coalition
11:41:10 Joanna Barney, Montana Cannabis Coalition

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:43:53 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
11:44:02 Director Brendan Beatty
11:45:04 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
11:46:16 Kristan Barbour
11:49:25 Sen. Mark Noland
11:49:50 Kristan Barbour
11:51:01 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

11:51:36 **Recessed**

12:04:30 **Reconvened**

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

12:05:04 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Public Comment

12:24:28 None

Committee Questions / Discussions

12:24:46 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

12:25:04 Melanie Hall, Commissioner, Division of Banking and Financial Institutions,
Department of Administration (DOA)

Public Comment

12:31:50 None

Committee Questions / Discussions

12:32:07 Rep. Brian Close

12:32:20 Melanie Hall, Division of Banking and Financial Institutions
12:32:40 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

12:33:09 **Recessed**

13:33:58 **Reconvened**

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

13:34:15 James Brown, State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI)

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Public Comment

13:43:10 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:43:33 Sen. Mark Noland

13:44:43 James Brown, CSI

13:51:37 Rep. Jamie Isaly

13:51:50 James Brown

13:52:02 Amber Thorvilson, Chief Financial Officer, CSI

13:53:12 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

13:53:27 Amber Thorvilson, CSI

13:53:32 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

13:54:09 Nicholas Mazanec, General Counsel, Montana State Fund (MSF)

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

14:01:33 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

14:01:45 Rene Martello, Finance Director, MSF

Public Comment

14:06:30 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:06:51 Sen. Mark Noland

14:08:00 Rene Martello, MSF

14:08:50 Nicholas Mazanec, MSF

14:12:54 Rep. Jamie Isaly

14:13:26 Nicholas Mazanec

14:15:10 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

14:15:35 Nicholas Mazanec

14:16:25 Rep. Nelly Nicol
14:16:45 Nicholas Mazanec
14:22:45 Sen. Mark Noland

Public Comment

14:23:14 None

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

14:23:47 Jillien Streit, Director, Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Public Comment

14:28:16 Ellie Brighton, Montana Stockgrowers Association
14:28:42 Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:29:25 None

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

14:29:55 Brian Simonson, Administrator, Department of Livestock

[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Public Comment

14:38:18 Ellie Brighton, Montana Stockgrowers Association
14:39:03 Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:39:50 None

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

14:40:22 Marta Bertoglio, Director, Department of Commerce (DOC)

[EXHIBIT 15](#)

[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Public Comment

14:48:23 Ellie Brighton, Montana Stockgrowers Association
14:48:52 Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:49:32 Sen. Mark Noland
14:49:53 Director Marta Bertoglio, DOC
14:49:59 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS OF ASSIGNED AGENCIES - Continued

14:50:28 Mark Blasdel, Director of Economic Development, Governor's Office

Public Comment

14:55:45 Ellie Brighton, Montana Stockgrowers Association

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:56:21 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Public Comment on Any Agency

14:56:36 None

14:57:23 **Recessed**

15:22:40 **Reconvened**

Public Comment on EAIC's Work Plan Options And Study Priorities

15:23:21 John Sinrud, Montana Landlord Association

15:28:15 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

15:29:59 Jon Metropoulos, Pharmacy Care Management Association (PCMA)

15:33:45 Gregory VanHorssen, Prime Therapeutics

15:35:25 Maura Henn, Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition

15:38:40 EJ Redding, Montana Family of Pharmacies

15:39:47 Rep. Joshua Seckinger

15:40:39 Ellie Brighton, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:42:33 Karli Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

[EXHIBIT 17](#)

[EXHIBIT 18](#)

15:43:48 Michael Delong, Consumer Federation of America

WORK SESSION – EAIC'S WORK PLAN OPTIONS AND STUDY PRIORITIES**Draft Work Plan**

15:48:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

15:49:19 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 19](#)

15:51:02 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

15:51:16 Sen. Mark Noland

15:52:53 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

15:54:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

15:55:02 Rep. Brian Close

15:56:21 Rep. Jamie Isaly

15:56:41 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

15:57:01 Matthew Weaver, LSD

15:59:42 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

16:00:02 Rep. Jamie Isaly

16:00:21	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:00:27	Matthew Weaver
16:00:56	Sen. Kenneth Bogner
16:02:03	Rep. Peter Strand
16:02:38	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:03:50	Rep. Brian Close
16:05:12	Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
16:06:01	Rep. Nelly Nicol
16:09:08	Sen. Mark Noland
16:10:07	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:12:45	Matthew Weaver
16:13:12	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:15:47	Sen. Mark Noland
16:16:58	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:18:18	Rep. Peter Strand
16:18:44	Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
16:19:43	Matthew Weaver
16:21:11	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:22:12	Rep. Nelly Nicol
16:23:08	Rep. Morgan Thiel
16:23:21	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:24:20	Sen. Kenneth Bogner
16:29:52	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:30:08	Sen. Mark Noland
16:30:35	Matthew Weaver
16:31:18	Rep. Brian Close
16:31:28	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:32:15	Rep. Jamie Isaly
16:33:27	Sen. Kenneth Bogner
16:33:32	Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Public Comment

16:34:25	Jon Metropoulos, Pharmacy Care Management Association
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Motion

16:35:15	Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved to tentatively adopt the workplan matrix calculator as proposed.
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Vote

16:35:36	Carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Ed Buttrey and Sen. Josh Kassmier were not present for the vote.
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WORK SESSION – EAIC’S WORK PLAN OPTIONS AND STUDY PRIORITIES - Continued

Meeting Dates

16:35:58 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
16:36:30 Rep. Peter Strand
16:37:03 Sen. Mark Noland
16:37:21 Matthew Weaver
16:37:40 Rep. Brian Close
16:38:39 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
16:39:51 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

Motion

16:48:32 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler moved to tentatively accept the proposed calendar dates.

Discussion on the Motion

16:49:00 None

Public Comment

16:49:09 None

Vote

16:49:12 Carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Ed Buttrey and Sen. Josh Kassmier were not present for the vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC IN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION

16:49:25 None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:49:42