



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 Pennington - Secretary
Jameson Walker - Legal Staff
Matthew Weaver - Lead Staff

MINUTES LOG

November 13, 2025
Day 2 - Room 137
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. 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:

Rep. Ed Buttrey (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary
Jameson Walker, Legal Staff

Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:01:02 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

09:02:10 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:06:33 Rep. Brian Close
09:06:52 Jameson Walker, LSD
09:08:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:10:41 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
09:14:12 Sen. Mark Noland

Public Comment

09:15:28 Jennifer Stalkamp, Deputy Chief Legal, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY (DLI)

09:16:19 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, DLI
[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Public Comment

09:36:41 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:37:00 Rep. Morgan Thiel
09:37:09 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
09:37:36 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
09:39:00 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
09:39:40 Sen. Mark Noland
09:41:48 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
09:42:12 Rep. Jamie Isaly
09:42:45 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
09:45:39 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

09:45:59 **Recessed**

10:00:13 **Reconvened**

MEMBER TOPIC: ROBOTICS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI), AND THE MONTANA WORKFORCE

10:00:29 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
10:01:36 Dr. Jake Chipps, Program Director, American Computer and Robotics Museum
10:02:03 Eleanor Barker, Executive Director, American Computer and Robotics Museum
 [EXHIBIT 16](#)
10:09:27 Paddy Fleming, Director, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
 [EXHIBIT 17](#)
10:13:34 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
 (See Exhibit 15)

Public Comment

10:32:15 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:32:41 Rep. Peter Strand
10:34:32 Paddy Fleming, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
10:35:48 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
10:39:03 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
10:39:35 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
10:41:56 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:43:50 Eleanor Barker, American Computer and Robotics Museum
10:44:45 Dr. Jake Chipps, American Computer and Robotics Museum
10:46:01 Paddy Fleming, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
10:47:42 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
10:52:01 Sen. Mark Noland
10:52:31 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.
10:52:38 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
10:54:11 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:55:26 Dr. Jake Chipps, American Computer and Robotics Museum
10:56:27 Commissioner Sarah Swanson, DLI
10:58:29 Rep. Morgan Thiel
10:58:52 Dr. Jake Chipps, American Computer and Robotics Museum
10:59:25 Sen. Mark Noland
11:01:02 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

11:01:32 **Recessed**

11:15:50 **Reconvened**

HJ 61 – PROPERTY INSURANCE MARKET IN MT

11:16:02 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)

11:16:28 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI), State Auditor's Office

11:18:24 Erin Snyder, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, State Auditor's Office

11:23:16 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler left the meeting and Sen. Mark Noland assumed the position of Presiding Officer.

11:37:17 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler rejoined the meeting. Presiding Officer Brandon Ler instructed for Sen. Mark Noland to continue to assume the position of Presiding Officer until the next committee topic.

Public Comment

11:51:09 Bob Biskupiak, Firesafe Montana Board

11:54:45 Acting Presiding Officer Mark Noland

11:57:40 Michael DeLong, Consumer Federation of America

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:00:51 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

12:03:18 Trevor Graff, State Auditor's Office

12:03:57 Sen. Josh Kassmier left the meeting.

12:05:22 Erin Snyder, State Auditor's Office

12:06:17 Acting Presiding Officer Mark Noland

12:08:25 Rep. Nelly Nicol

12:09:45 Erin Snyder, State Auditor's Office

12:15:17 Sen. Kenneth Bogner rejoined (returned to) the meeting.

12:15:41 Trevor Graff, State Auditor's Office

12:16:12 Rep. Jamie Isaly

12:16:48 Trevor Graff, State Auditor's Office

12:17:28 Erin Snyder, State Auditor's Office

12:23:39 Rep. Brian Close

12:24:00 Erin Snyder, State Auditor's Office

12:24:25 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

12:25:03 Trevor Graff, State Auditor's Office

12:26:35 Rep. Nelly Nicol

12:28:50 Trevor Graff, State Auditor's Office

12:30:30 Acting Presiding Officer Mark Noland

12:31:22 Erin Snyder, State Auditor's Office

12:33:10 Sen. Kenneth Bogner and Presiding Officer Brandon Ler left the meeting.

12:33:20 Trevor Graff, State Auditor's Office

12:34:49 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler rejoined (returned to) the meeting.

12:45:02 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler resumed the position of Presiding Officer.

12:45:04 Rep. Brian Close
12:45:19 Trevor Graff, State Auditor's Office
12:45:44 Erin Snyder, State Auditor's Office
12:46:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

EMERGING ISSUES: AUTO-INSURANCE RIGHT TO APPRAISAL PROGRESS REPORT

12:47:00 Melissa Lewis, Montana Collision Repair Association
12:47:15 Rep. Morgan Thiel left the meeting.

Public Comment

12:48:46 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI), State Auditor's Office

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:49:14 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
12:50:11 Sen. Mark Noland
12:50:34 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

PUBLIC COMMENT* ON ANY TOPIC UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION BUT NOT ON THE AGENDA

12:52:19 Sarah Froehlke, Zero to Five Montana
12:54:48 Joselyn Cahill, Rocky Vista University
12:55:50 Rep. Morgan Thiel rejoined (returned to) the meeting.
12:56:55 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)
12:59:40 Don Cape

WORK SESSION: COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND MEETING WRAP UP

Potential Legislation Regarding the Medical Supply Chain and Housing Insurance/ Future Committee Meeting Topics

13:03:41 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
[EXHIBIT 19](#)
13:05:57 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
13:12:36 Rep. Morgan Thiel
13:13:23 Rep. Brian Close
13:13:40 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
13:17:29 Rep. Nelly Nicol
13:18:54 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, LSD
13:27:18 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance (CSI), State Auditor's Office

Potential Kratom Legislation

13:29:08 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:31:21 Rep. Morgan Thiel
13:33:49 Matthew Weaver, LSD

13:34:21 Jameson Walker, LSD

Clarification on Staff Instruction & Requested Meeting Topics

13:37:38 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

13:38:07 Jameson Walker, LSD

13:38:25 Rep. Brian Close

13:38:40 Matt Weaver, LSD

Committee Calendar

13:42:18 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Motion

13:43:12 Rep. Brian Close moved to cancel the committee meeting on July 16, 2026.

Vote

13:43:19 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Calendar - Continued

13:43:24 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

13:43:45 Matthew Weaver, LSD

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 13:43:59