



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
Rachel Weiss - Research Director

MINUTES LOG

October 02, 2025
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
Jameson Walker, Legal Staff

Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff
Rachel Weiss, Research Director

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:01:37 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler called the meeting to order at 9:02¹ AM. The committee secretary took roll.

WORK SESSION: CALENDAR FINALIZATION AND WORK PLAN ADOPTION

09:03:14 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:07:20 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:07:33 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
09:08:07 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Motion

09:09:43 Rep. Ed Buttrey moved to remove the committee meeting date for January 2026 and instead have a two-day meeting date in July, the first day in Helena, the second day in Virginia City.
09:09:58 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman seconds the motion.

Discussion on the Motion

09:10:07 None

Vote

09:10:16 Carried 10-1 by voice vote with Sen. Kenneth Bogner voting 'no'.

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:10:47 Matthew Weaver, LSD

Public Comment

09:11:06 None

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

09:11:27 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:16:35 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:16:40 Jameson Walker, LSD
09:17:07 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

09:17:28 Sen. Mark Noland
09:18:02 Jameson Walker, LSD

Public Comment

09:19:03 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:19:19 Jennifer Stallkamp, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Labor & Industry (DLI)

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (DOR)

Consolidation of Alcoholic Beverage Control Division and Cannabis Control Division

09:20:12 Scott Mendenhall, Deputy Director, DOR
09:26:12 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:26:15 Scott Mendenhall, DOR
09:27:02 Kristan Barbour, Administrator, Cannabis and Alcohol Regulation Division (CARD), DOR

Public Comment

09:30:50 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)
09:31:48 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild
09:35:03 Alex Sterhan, Administrator, Gambling Control Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)
09:37:08 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association (MTCIA)
09:38:24 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:38:55 Sen. Mark Noland
09:40:21 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:40:27 Rep. Brian Close
09:41:32 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:41:33 Rep. Ed Buttrey
09:42:51 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:44:11 Kristan Barbour, DOJ
09:46:55 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:47:00 Sen. Mark Noland
09:48:09 Scott Mendenhall, DOR

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (DOR) – Continued

Cannabis Testing

09:54:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
09:54:21 Kristan Barbour, DOJ

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Public Comment

09:58:39 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory
10:04:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:04:13 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild
10:08:44 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:08:52 Mariah Bond, Montana Cannabis Coalition
10:10:01 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:10:10 Kate Cholewa, MTCIA
10:13:44 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:13:45 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:13:55 Rep. Ed Buttrey
10:14:59 Kristan Barbour, DOJ
10:18:16 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:18:01 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
10:18:38 Kristan Barbour, DOJ
10:20:26 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:20:28 Sen. Mark Noland
10:20:56 Kristan Barbour, DOJ
10:24:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:24:04 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:24:23 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory
10:27:30 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:27:32 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:27:43 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild
10:31:30 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:31:34 Rep. Jamie Isaly
10:31:48 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory
10:32:03 Mariah Bond, Montana Cannabis Coalition
10:33:09 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:33:10 Rep. Ed Buttrey
10:33:53 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory
10:35:08 Rep. Ed Buttrey
10:35:38 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:35:55 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
10:38:53 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
10:38:54 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman left the meeting.

Public Comment

10:39:18 Joanna Barney

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:39:39 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Motion

10:40:26 Rep. Jamie Isaly moved to have the Economic Affairs Interim Committee encourage the Department of Revenue to pursue rulemaking relating to Cannabis testing procedures.

Discussion on the Motion

10:40:34 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

10:40:44 Jameson Walker, LSD

10:41:24 Rep. Jamie Isaly

10:41:23 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

10:42:07 Rep. Brian Close

10:42:15 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

10:42:56 Rep. Ed Buttrey

10:43:11 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Vote

10:44:11 Carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ellie Boldman voting 'yes' by proxy. Sen. Kenneth Bogner was not present for the vote.

10:45:16 **Recessed**

10:56:40 **Reconvened**

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: MONTANA STATE FUND

Legislative Audit Division

10:56:47 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

10:57:05 Angus Maciver, Director, Legislative Audit Division (LAD)

11:02:05 Jen Erdahl, Financial Compliance Audit Manager, LAD

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: MONTANA STATE FUND

Montana State Fund

11:12:47 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

11:13:20 Renee Martello, Director, Montana State Fund

Public Comment

11:14:34 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:15:04 Rep. Nelly Nicol

11:15:35 Renee Martello
11:16:26 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:16:43 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration (DOA)

EMERGING ISSUES: AUTO-INSURANCE RIGHT TO APPRAISAL

11:19:19 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:19:58 Melissa Lewis, Montana Collision Repair Association

Public Comment

11:22:50 Anthony Drahos, Owner, Teak Client Consultants
11:25:56 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:26:02 Frank Cote
11:29:51 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:29:56 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (MT CSI)
11:32:16 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:32:39 Rep. Ed Buttrey
11:33:10 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:33:32 Sen. Mark Noland
11:33:41 Trevor Graff, MT CSI
11:35:03 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:35:23 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
11:35:38 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:35:59 Rep. Ed Buttrey
11:36:15 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
11:36:51 Rep. Nelly Nicol
11:36:56 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

11:38:05 **Recessed**

13:01:21 **Reconvened**

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION (SJ) 33 - RX DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN PANEL:
MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLESALERS**

13:01:22 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:02:47 Rep. Ed Buttrey
13:03:14 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
13:04:27 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:05:04 Debbie Lennon, Hamilton Site Director, GSK

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

13:13:54 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:14:10 Katelin Lucariello, Deputy Vice President, State Policy, PhRMA

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

13:22:59 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:23:07 Hannah Seitzinger, Director, State Government Affairs, Healthcare Distribution Alliance

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Public Comment

13:30:03 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:30:29 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:31:15 Katelin Lucariello, PhRMA
13:33:07 Debbie Lennon, GSK
13:34:16 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:34:23 Rep. Jamie Isaly
13:34:43 Katelin Lucariello, PhRMA
13:35:42 Debbie Lennon, GSK
13:36:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:36:05 Rep. Ed Buttrey
13:36:39 Debbie Lennon, GSK
13:37:37 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:38:15 Katelin Lucariello, PhRMA
13:41:14 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

13:41:49 **Recessed**

13:56:45 **Reconvened**

SJ 33 - RX DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN PANEL: PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS (PBMS) AND PHARMACY SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS (PSAOS)

13:56:48 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:57:09 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
13:58:05 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:58:12 Marcus Caruso, Government Affairs, Prime Therapeutics
13:58:38 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:58:45 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, Senior Director, State Affairs, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)
13:59:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:59:05 Scott Pace, Government Relations and Public Affairs, Impact Management Group

13:59:32 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
13:59:40 Marcus Caruso, Prime Therapeutics
13:59:50 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
14:11:21 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:11:41 Scott Pace, Impact Management Group

Public Comment

14:17:56 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:18:11 Mike Matovich, Pharmacist, Pharmacy Owner
14:20:03 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:20:08 Jackie Boyle, Mountain Health CO-OP
14:21:34 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:21:53 Rep. Jamie Isaly
14:22:21 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
14:22:50 Marcus Caruso, Prime Therapeutics
14:23:28 Scott Pace, Impact Management Group
14:24:00 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:27:48 Rep. Brian Close
14:28:06 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
14:29:14 Marcus Caruso, Prime Therapeutics
14:29:30 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:29:47 Rep. Nelly Nicol
14:30:49 Marcus Caruso, Prime Therapeutics
14:31:55 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
14:34:11 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:34:15 Rep. Peter Strand
14:34:27 Marcus Caruso, Prime Therapeutics
14:35:28 Scott Pace, Impact Management Group
14:35:31 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:35:46 Rep. Peter Strand
14:35:49 Scott Pace, Impact Management Group
14:36:36 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:36:42 Scott Pace, Impact Management Group
14:36:57 Rep. Nelly Nicol
14:37:33 Marcus Caruso, Prime Therapeutics
14:38:19 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
14:39:31 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:39:34 Rep. Jamie Isaly

14:40:02 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
14:40:22 Marcus Caruso, Prime Therapeutics
14:41:15 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:41:26 Rep. Brian Close
14:41:39 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
14:42:01 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

14:42:48 **Recessed**

14:57:55 **Reconvened**

SJ 33 - RX DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN PANEL: PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS

14:57:56 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:58:13 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:58:49 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
14:59:05 Nicole Clark, Neurologist, St. Peter's Health, Montana Medical Association (MMA)
14:59:35 Mike Matovich, President, Montana Family Pharmacies Association
15:00:01 John Sorensen, Patient
15:00:13 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
15:00:33 Tracey Murrish, Director, Specialty Pharmacy Services, Billings Clinic
15:00:59 Nicole Clark, St. Peter's Health, Montana Medical Association
15:03:01 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
15:03:09 Mike Matovich, Montana Family Pharmacies Association
(See Exhibit 9)
15:08:12 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
15:08:15 John Sorensen, Patient
15:13:43 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
15:13:48 Tracey Murrish, Billings Clinic
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
15:19:23 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Public Comment

15:19:33 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, Senior Director, State Affairs, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)
15:19:55 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:20:15 Rep. Ed Buttrey
15:20:44 Nicole Clark, St. Peter's Health, MMA
15:23:34 Rep. Ed Buttrey
15:24:08 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, PCMA
15:26:08 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

15:26:24 Rep. Ed Buttrey
 15:26:34 Rep. Peter Strand
 15:27:04 Mike Matovich, Montana Family Pharmacies Association
 15:29:29 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 15:29:31 Rep. Brian Close
 15:29:45 Nicole Clark, St. Peter's Health, MMA
 15:30:23 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 15:30:26 Rep. Nelly Nicol
 15:30:51 Mike Matovich, Montana Family Pharmacies Association
 15:34:53 Rep. Brian Close
 15:35:10 Tracey Murrish, Director of Specialty Pharmacy Services
 15:37:52 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 15:37:57 Rep. Jamie Isaly
 15:38:25 Mike Matovich, Montana Family Pharmacies Association
 15:39:50 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

 15:40:40 **Recessed**
 15:53:32 **Reconvened**

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

15:54:05 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 15:54:39 Cynthia Wolken, Government Relations Director, Pacific Source Health Plans
 15:55:59 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 15:56:13 Andrew Cziok, Government Relations Director, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Montana

WORK SESSION: COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND MEETING WRAP UP

15:57:45 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 15:58:21 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
 (See Exhibit 1)
 16:00:25 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 16:01:33 Rep. Brian Close
 16:01:48 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler
 16:02:47 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, LSD
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
 16:03:22 Presiding Officer Brandon Ler

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:04:03