



LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

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SENATE MEMBERS

Mary Ann Dunwell
Forrest Mandeville
Jeremy Trebas
Daniel Zolnikov

HOUSE MEMBERS

Pete Elverum
Alanah Griffith
Shane Klakken
Greg Oblander
Jolanda Songer
Courtenay Sprunger

COMMITTEE STAFF

Maxwell Parson – Lead Staff
Maddie Krezowski – Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

November 20, 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:

Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Alanah Griffith, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Pete Elverum (D) – Via Zoom
Rep. Shane Klakken (R)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff
Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:02:08 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll.
09:03:28 Rep. Pete Elverum

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30: PRESENTATION ON POTENTIAL UPDATES TO ELEVATOR BUILDING CODES

09:03:34 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:04:24 Stephen Smith, Executive Director, The Center for Building in North America
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Public Comment

09:23:26 Eric Copeland, Bureau Chief, Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:23:47 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
09:24:17 Eric Copeland, DLI
09:25:57 Rep. Shane Klakken
09:26:32 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
09:29:29 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
09:30:21 Eric Copeland, DLI
09:32:17 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
09:33:06 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
09:36:14 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
09:37:48 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
09:39:28 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
09:40:11 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
09:41:26 Rep. Shane Klakken
09:41:58 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 57: PANEL WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) AND USERS OF THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

09:45:23 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:45:51 Laura Schultz, Program Administrator, Montana Emergency Communications Program, DOJ
09:48:14 Jamin Howell, Technical Manager, Montana Emergency Communications Program, DOJ

09:53:09 Lee Johnson, Director, Criminal Investigation Division, DOJ
09:58:39 Jeff Newton, Chief of Police, Great Falls
10:03:38 Mike Linder, Sheriff, Yellowstone County

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:07:59 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:08:09 Laura Schultz, DOJ
10:08:33 Rep. Shane Klakken
10:09:23 Laura Schultz, DOJ
10:10:49 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
10:11:22 Jamin Howell, DOJ
10:14:01 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
EXHIBIT 2
10:14:51 Laura Schultz, DOJ
10:14:58 Jamin Howell, DOJ
10:18:47 Rep. Shane Klakken
10:18:58 Jamin Howell, DOJ
10:21:58 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:22:18 Jamin Howell, DOJ

Public Comment

10:23:38 Shelby Demars, L3Harris Technologies, Inc

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

MSU LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMENTS OR REMARKS

10:26:19 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
10:27:23 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

MONTANANS AGAINST IRRESPONSIBLE DENSIFICATION (MAID) LITIGATION UPDATE

10:28:36 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:33:43 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
10:33:52 Maddie Krezowski, LSD
10:33:57 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:34:11 Maddie Krezowski, LSD

10:35:14 **Recessed**
10:57:15 **Reconvened**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47: PANEL WITH COUNTY SAFETY ENTITY
REPRESENTATIVES ON COOPERATION**

10:57:20 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:59:24 Jason Jarrett, Assistant to Gallatin County Sheriff & Assigned to Sheriff's Mutual Aid Program, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
EXHIBIT 3
11:08:13 Scott Van Dyken, Undersheriff, Cascade County Sheriff's Office & Board Member of Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
11:13:00 Randy Okon, Deputy Fire Warden, Office of Emergency Management, Missoula County
11:18:14 Rich Cowger, Fire Chief, Columbus Rural Fire District

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:31:04 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
11:31:37 Scott Van Dyken, Cascade County
11:32:32 Randy Okon, Missoula County
11:34:28 Rep. Shane Klakken
11:35:15 Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County
11:39:54 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
11:40:41 Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County
11:42:15 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
11:42:34 Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County
11:44:40 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
11:46:12 Rich Cowger, Columbus
11:49:55 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
11:50:24 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

Public Comment

11:51:58 None

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28: FEDERAL GRANT PRIMER PRESENTATION

11:53:09 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT 4
EXHIBIT 5
EXHIBIT 6

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:06:44 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
12:07:49 Maxwell Parson, LSD
12:07:59 Ethan Bergen, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
12:09:14 Rep. Shane Klakken
(See Exhibit 4)

12:09:45 Maxwell Parson, LSD
12:10:37 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
12:12:46 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
12:13:44 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

Public Comment

12:14:12 Mary Craigie, Self
12:16:58 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

12:19:05 **Recessed**
13:31:28 **Reconvened**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47: PANEL WITH MUNICIPAL SAFETY ENTITY
REPRESENTATIVES ON COOPERATION**

13:32:02 George Richards, Captain, Billings Fire Department
13:43:53 Brian Black, Captain, Great Falls Police Department
13:44:49 Greg Tryon, Assistant City Manager, City of Belgrade
13:48:51 Jordan Venezio, Chief of Police, City of Kalispell

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:50:26 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
13:51:31 Greg Tryon, City of Belgrade
13:54:10 Brian Black, Great Falls Police Department
13:54:40 George Richards, Billings Fire Department
13:56:45 Jordan Venezio, City of Kalispell
13:57:14 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
13:58:04 Greg Tryon, City of Belgrade
13:59:31 Brian Black, Great Falls Police Department
14:01:11 George Richards, Billings Fire Department
14:04:12 Jordan Venezio, City of Kalispell
14:04:49 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

Public Comment

14:06:43 Rep. Steve Gist, HD 25, Cascade County
14:10:11 Jeff Hurley, Deputy Fire Chief, Central Valley Fire District
14:12:24 Nick Stinson, Central Fire Fighters Union Local #4939, Central Valley Fire District

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:14:09 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

14:15:25 **Recessed**
14:48:20 **Reconvened**

PRESENTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HB 681

14:48:44 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Administrator, Water Resources Division,
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:09:14 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:10:12 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC
15:17:04 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:17:23 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC
15:20:37 Rep. Shane Klakken
15:22:12 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC
15:22:07 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:23:50 Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC

Public Comment

15:25:01 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
15:29:40 Lindsey Krywaruchka, Administrator, Water Quality Division, Department of
Environmental Quality (DEQ)
15:31:01 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association

UPDATE ON THE WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE'S EXEMPT WELL STUDY

15:35:00 Toni Henneman, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD) & Lead
Staff, Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC)

Public Comment

15:41:57 None

EXEMPT WELLS: PANEL WITH LOCALITIES AND INDUSTRY ON WATER USE

15:42:44 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:43:28 Adrienne Cotton, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
15:48:24 Ronda Wiggers, Lobbyist, Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA)
15:54:33 Brian Heaston, Engineer, City of Bozeman
16:03:35 Ryan Leland, Public Works Director, City of Helena

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:06:59 Rep. Shane Klakken
16:07:08 Adrienne Cotton, MBIA
16:09:25 Rep. Shane Klakken

16:09:52 Ronda Wiggers, MWWDA
16:11:13 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
16:11:33 Brian Heaston, City of Bozeman
16:11:49 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
16:12:17 Adrienne Cotton, MBIA
16:14:10 Rep. Shane Klakken
16:14:24 Ryan Leland, City of Helena
16:15:22 Rep. Shane Klakken
16:15:42 Brian Heaston, City of Bozeman
16:18:29 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

Public Comment

16:19:53 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association
16:21:07 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Letter to Congress on Capital Gains Taxes when Selling Homes

16:25:39 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:27:50 Rep. Shane Klakken
16:28:38 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
16:29:04 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
16:30:07 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
16:32:45 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
16:34:12 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
16:36:39 Rep. Shane Klakken
16:36:45 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
16:37:36 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

Motion

16:38:00 Presiding Officer Forest Mandeville moved to approve the draft and send the letter to the Montana Federal Delegations.

Vote without Quorum

16:38:02 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

Discussion Regarding Vote without Quorum

16:38:27 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

Public Comment

16:39:55 None

Senator Zolnikov Joined The Meeting to Meet the Quorum Requirements for Voting

16:40:19 Sen. Zolnikov joined the meeting via Zoom.

Vote

16:40:44 Carried 4 – 1 by voice vote with Sen. Trebas voting no.

Discussion regarding the vote

16:41:20 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

16:41:26 Presiding Officer Forrest Griffith

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM IN LGIC'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

16:41:51 None

WRAP UP

16:42:03 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

16:42:16 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:42:47