



LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Shane Morigeau
Vince Ricci
Barry Usher
Sue Vinton

HOUSE MEMBERS

Katie Fire Thunder
Steven Kelly
Braxton Mitchell
Amy Regier
Zooley Zephyr

COMMITTEE STAFF

Laura Sherley - Lead Staff
Julianne Burkhardt - Legal Staff
Abbie J.N. Cziok - Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

January 14, 2026
Capitol Room 102 & 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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Amy Regier, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Zooley Zephyr, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Katie Fire Thunder (D)
Rep. Steven Kelly (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D) - Via Zoom
Sen. Vince Ricci (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Sue Vinton (R) - Via Zoom

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Sherley, Lead Staff
Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff
Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:03:31 Presiding Officer Amy Regier called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

New Committee Member Introduction

08:04:07 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

08:04:26 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA WAREHOUSE

Implementation Update

08:05:21 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

08:06:14 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

08:06:39 Kayla Bragg, Executive Director, Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

08:08:28 Janice Fries, Director, Statistical Analysis Center, MBCC

08:15:33 Adam Carpenter, Chief Data Officer, Department of Administration (DOA)

Public Comment

08:18:41 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:20:44 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr

08:21:24 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC

08:22:19 Adam Carpenter, DOA

08:28:33 Sen. Barry Usher

08:28:47 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC

08:30:56 Adam Carpenter, DOA

08:36:26 Rep. Steven Kelly

08:38:33 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC

08:41:31 Adam Carpenter, DOA

MONTANA BAR FAIRIES

08:44:53 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

08:45:19 Beth McBride, President and Co-Founder, Montana Bar Fairies
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Public Comment

09:17:54 Carli Seymour, Montana Bar Fairies

09:19:54 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:24:27 Rep. Steven Kelly

09:25:34 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:27:00 Sen. Vince Ricci
 09:27:23 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:28:37 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr
 09:30:56 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:33:05 Sen. Barry Usher
 (See Exhibit 1)
 09:36:04 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:42:45 Sen. Shane Morigeau
 09:44:51 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:47:58 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
 09:49:07 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:53:48 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
 09:53:56 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr
 (See Exhibit 1)
 09:54:39 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:55:04 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
 09:56:27 Beth McBride, Montana Bar Fairies
 09:57:58 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

 09:58:16 **Recessed**
 10:12:05 **Reconvened**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 32: STUDY OF ADVANCED INVESTIGATOR
 QUALIFICATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
 Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)**

10:12:06 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
 *An error in the recording occurred from 10:11:05-10:12:05. During that time,
[EXHIBIT 2](#) was presented to the committee by staff.
 10:12:11 Sandi Johnson, Senior Legislative Policy Counsel, RAINN
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Public Comment

10:38:32 Josh Butterfly, Prayer Warriors Tribal Council
 EXHIBIT 4
 Note: Exhibit 4 is an oversized exhibit and is physically available in the
 Legislative Services Division's office upon request.
 10:39:02 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
 10:41:24 Kelsen Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
 (MCADSV)
 10:42:32 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:44:44 Rep. Steven Kelly
 10:45:41 Sandi Johnson, RAINN

10:51:21 Sen. Barry Usher
10:51:58 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
10:52:59 Scott Eychner, Chief Executive Officer, Rehabilitation and Programs,
Department of Corrections (COR)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

10:53:16 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:53:26 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Public Comment

10:55:18 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (COR)

Department of Corrections Commits Workgroup Update

10:57:06 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:57:26 Eric Strauss, Director, COR
11:00:19 Scott Eychner, Chief Executive Officer, Rehabilitation and Programs, COR
11:01:44 Megan Coy, Bureau Chief, Community Corrections Facilities and Programs,
COR
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Public Comment

11:16:49 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:19:28 Sen. Barry Usher
11:20:00 Megan Coy, COR
11:21:25 Sean Goeddel, Bureau Chief, Probation and Parole Bureau, COR
11:22:45 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR
11:25:16 Scott Eychner, COR
11:29:14 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
11:29:36 Sean Goeddel, COR
11:30:23 Rep. Steven Kelly
(See Exhibit 8)
11:31:01 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR
11:31:36 Sen. Vince Ricci
11:31:58 Megan Coy, COR
11:36:17 Sen. Barry Usher
11:37:16 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR
11:38:12 Sean Goeddel, COR
11:38:17 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
11:38:36 Vice Presiding Officer Zoey Zephyr

11:39:02 **Recessed**
13:01:04 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56 – STUDY OF SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES AND FUNDING

13:01:05 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:01:28 Captain Matt Boxmeyer, Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office & Chair, Montana Search and Rescue Subcommittee, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)
13:01:43 Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, MSPOA
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:29:46 Sen. Barry Usher
13:30:38 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA
13:31:05 Sen. Vince Ricci
13:31:58 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA
13:37:37 Vice Presiding Officer Zooney Zephyr
13:38:07 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA
13:38:42 Cpt. Matt Boxmeyer, MSPOA
13:39:51 Rep. Steven Kelly
13:41:57 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA
13:45:18 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
13:45:53 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA

MONTANA’S DISTRICT COURTS AND COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

Montana Magistrates Association (MMA)

13:47:57 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:48:51 Rebecca Meyers, Contact Lobbyist, MMA
13:52:46 Judge Kelly Mantooth, Justice of the Peace, Fergus County
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
14:00:44 Judge Mike Swingley, Justice of the Peace, Lewis and Clark County
14:10:19 Judge Matthew Cuffe, 19th Judicial District Court Judge, Lincoln County

Montana Courts: Budgets and Costs

14:13:12 Dave McAlpin, Court Administrator, Office of the Court Administrator (CAO)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
14:19:58 Judge Kelly Mantooth, Fergus County
(See Exhibit 11)

Public Comment

14:24:06 Judge Jessie Connolly, Justice of the Peace, Sweetgrass County & President, MMA
14:28:16 Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association

14:30:57 May Simmons, Lake County Resident
14:33:04 Dave McAlpin, CAO

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:33:29 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:33:44 Sen. Barry Usher
14:34:40 Rebecca Meyers, MMA
14:36:33 Judge Matthew Cuffe, Lincoln County
14:38:01 Judge Mike Swingley, Lewis and Clark County
14:40:41 Judge Kelly Mantooth, Fergus County
14:43:29 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

14:43:41 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:43:59 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 13](#)
[EXHIBIT 14](#)
[EXHIBIT 15](#)
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Instructions to Staff

14:48:00 Vice Presiding Officer Zoey Zephyr
14:48:45 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:49:04 Rep. Steven Kelly

14:49:27 **Recessed**
15:30:33 **Reconvened**

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

Agency Updates

15:30:34 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
15:30:48 Alan Doane, Legislative Liaison, Montana Attorney General's Office, DOJ
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)

Chaplain Program

15:37:34 Jason Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Montana Attorney General's Office, DOJ

Montana Mobile ID Program and ID Changes Update

15:40:40 Alan Doane, DOJ
15:40:54 Laurie Bakri, Administrator, Montana Motor Vehicle Division (MVD)
[EXHIBIT 20](#)
15:47:08 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

15:47:19 Captain Shawn Silvan, Systems and Technology, Montana Highway Patrol
(MHP)
[EXHIBIT 21](#)
[EXHIBIT 22](#)

Agency Updates - Continued

15:56:35 Alan Doane, DOJ

Committee Discussion / Questions

16:02:18 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
16:02:36 Rep. Steven Kelly
16:03:11 Sen. Barry Usher
16:04:01 Alan Doane, DOJ
(See Exhibit 17)
16:05:31 Capt. Shawn Silvan, MHP
(See Exhibit 21)
16:07:42 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
16:08:00 Capt. Shawn Silvan, MHP
16:08:36 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
16:08:56 Capt. Shawn Silvan, MHP

**7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE (KRATOM)
Effects, Uses, and Presence in Montana**

16:12:46 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
16:13:23 Steven Crawford, Narcotics Bureau Chief, Division of Criminal Investigation,
Department of Justice (DOJ)
[EXHIBIT 23](#)

Public Comment

16:22:25 Scott Boulanger, American Kratom Association (AKA)
16:23:41 Walker Gallman, Legislative Director, Global Kratom Coalition
16:28:16 May Simmons, Lake County Resident
16:30:14 Mac Haddow, Senior Fellow on Public Policy, AKA

Committee Discussion / Questions

16:33:28 Sen. Barry Usher
16:33:59 Steven Crawford, DOJ
16:34:34 Mac Haddow, AKA
16:40:37 Scott Boulanger, AKA
16:43:21 Sen. Sue Vinton
16:44:02 Steven Crawford, DOJ
16:47:07 Rep. Steven Kelly
16:47:39 Scott Boulanger, AKA
16:47:54 Mac Haddow, AKA

16:48:29 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
16:48:52 Mac Haddow, AKA
16:52:27 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER LJIC JURISDICTION

Written Public Comment ([Attachment 3](#))

16:52:52 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Assigned Studies

16:56:21 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
16:56:52 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 24](#)
16:58:21 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr
16:59:02 Sen. Barry Usher
16:59:23 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
16:59:27 Laura Sherley, LSD
17:00:02 Rep. Steven Kelly
17:01:18 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr
17:01:58 Sen. Barry Usher
17:02:27 Sen. Vince Ricci
17:02:56 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
17:03:11 Sen. Barry Usher
17:04:24 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
17:05:18 Sen. Shane Morigeau
17:06:04 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
17:07:22 Rep. Steven Kelly
17:08:06 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr
17:08:42 Sen. Shane Morigeau
17:10:14 Laura Sherley, LSD
17:11:15 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
17:11:27 Sen. Barry Usher
(See Exhibit 2)
17:12:57 Rep. Steven Kelly
17:14:55 Sen. Shane Morigeau
17:16:01 Laura Sherley, LSD
(See Exhibit 15)
17:16:44 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
17:17:41 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr
17:18:35 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Motion

17:19:02 Sen. Barry Usher moved to direct staff to work with the Public Safety Officer Standards & Training (POST) staff to draft provisional bill language regarding public safety agencies' ability to request and release conduct-related information on public safety officers.

Vote

17:19:10 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Instructions to Staff

17:19:26 Laura Sherley, LSD
17:19:48 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
17:19:52 Sen. Barry Usher
17:20:26 Laura Sherley, LSD
(See Exhibit 16)
17:21:32 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:22:51