



LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Shane Morigeau
Vince Ricci
Barry Usher
Sue Vinton

HOUSE MEMBERS

Steven Kelly
Braxton Mitchell
Amy Regier
Ed Stafman
Zooey Zephyr

COMMITTEE STAFF

Laura Sherley - Lead Staff
Julianne Burkhardt - Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

July 16, 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.

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. Zooey Zephyr, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Steven Kelly (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Sen. Vince Ricci (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Sherley, Lead Staff
Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:02:58 Acting Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.
The committee secretary took roll.

Committee Member and Staff Introductions

08:03:48 Acting Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau
08:04:12 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
08:04:31 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, LSD
08:04:54 Ania Alduenda, Secretary, LSD
08:05:19 Acting Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau
08:06:16 Rep. Amy Regier
08:06:26 Sen. Barry Usher
08:06:47 Rep. Steven Kelly
08:06:57 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
08:07:12 Sen. Vince Ricci
08:07:23 Rep. Ed Stafman
08:07:38 Sen. Sue Vinton
08:07:57 Rep. Zooey Zephyr
08:08:21 Acting Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion

08:09:58 Sen. Barry Usher nominated Rep. Amy Regier to be the Presiding Officer of the Law and Justice Interim Committee.

Vote

08:10:22 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

08:10:40 Sen. Barry Usher nominated Sen. Shane Morigeau to be the Vice Presiding Officer of the Law and Justice Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

08:10:48 Sen. Shane Morigeau

Substitute Motion

08:11:39 Sen. Shane Morigeau declined the nomination for Vice Presiding Officer and nominated Rep. Zooey Zephyr to be the Vice Presiding Officer of the Law and Justice Interim Committee.

Vote

08:11:58 Carried 5-4 by voice vote with Rep. Braxton Mitchell, Rep. Vince Ricci, Sen. Barry Usher, and Presiding Officer Amy Regier voting 'no'.

Discussion on the Vote

08:12:34 Sen. Barry Usher
08:12:55 Sen. Shane Morigeau
08:13:28 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
08:13:44 Sen. Barry Usher
08:13:54 Sen. Shane Morigeau

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

08:15:43 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

08:15:54 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
08:17:41 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, LSD
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:24:12 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
08:24:25 Sen. Barry Usher
08:24:47 Julianne Burkhardt, LSD

Senate Bill 64: Legislator Reimbursement Changes

08:25:26 Angie Carter, Financial Director, LSD
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
08:27:10 Laura Sherley, LSD
08:27:23 Director Angie Carter, LSD
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:30:41 Rep. Ed Stafman
08:31:13 Director Angie Carter
08:32:10 Sen. Shane Morigeau
08:32:38 Sen. Barry Usher
08:33:31 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
08:33:46 Director Angie Carter

Committee Website Overview

08:34:24 Laura Sherley
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:39:03 Sen. Sue Vinton

08:39:25 Laura Sherley

2025 Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees

08:40:14 Laura Sherley
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Motion

08:44:49 Rep. Steven Kelly moved to adopt the 2025 Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees.

Discussion on the Motion

08:44:58 Rep. Ed Stafman
08:45:19 Laura Sherley
08:45:30 Sen. Barry Usher
08:45:30 Laura Sherley

Vote

08:46:07 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Summary of 2025 Law and Justice Related Legislation

08:46:20 Laura Sherley
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

AGENCY INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS

08:47:50 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Office of Court Administrator (CAO)

08:48:12 Dave McAlpin, Supreme Court Administrator, CAO
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:54:01 Rep. Steven Kelly
08:54:11 Dave McAlpin, CAO
08:54:52 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Department of Justice (DOJ)

08:55:07 Alan Doane, Legislative Liaison, DOJ
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
08:58:33 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

08:58:50 Sheriff Leo Dutton, Chair, MBCC
09:07:08 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
09:07:21 Natalia Bowser, Executive Director, MBCC
09:07:39 Sheriff Leo Dutton, MBCC

09:08:11 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Department of Corrections (COR)

09:08:24 Eric Strauss, Deputy Director, COR

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:23:36 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
09:23:47 Deputy Director Eric Strauss, COR
09:24:02 Sen. Barry Usher
09:24:31 Deputy Director Eric Strauss
09:38:38 Rep. Steven Kelly
09:38:55 Deputy Director Eric Strauss
09:40:22 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
09:40:34 Deputy Director Eric Strauss
09:41:09 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
09:41:18 Deputy Director Eric Strauss
09:41:43 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Montana Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP)

09:41:58 Steve Hurd, Chairman, BOPP
09:51:49 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Office of State Public Defender (OPD)

09:52:00 Brett Schandelson, Director, OPD
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:14:13 Sen. Sue Vinton
10:14:33 Director Brett Schandelson, OPD
10:24:28 Rep. Steven Kelly
10:25:29 Director Brett Schandelson
10:31:46 Sen. Barry Usher
10:32:07 Director Brett Schandelson
10:40:00 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr left the meeting.
10:40:29 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

10:40:42 **Recessed**
11:05:44 **Reconvened**

Public Comment On Agency Oversight

11:05:45 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
11:05:58 Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

OVERVIEW OF DRAFT WORK PLAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

11:07:37 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

[EXHIBIT 12](#)

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:16:08 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:16:37 Laura Sherley, LSD

11:17:27 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, LSD

11:17:55 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:18:58 Laura Sherley

11:20:03 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:20:29 Laura Sherley

11:20:57 Sen. Barry Usher

11:22:02 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:22:35 Sen. Shane Morigeau

11:23:10 Sen. Barry Usher

11:23:21 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:23:27 Laura Sherley

Administrative Rule Review

11:23:44 Julianne Burkhardt, LSD
(See Exhibit 1)

Work Plan Decision Matrix

11:23:56 Laura Sherley

[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Public Comment

11:27:11 Erin McGowan, Montana Community Corrections Association

11:30:27 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana County Attorney's Association and Executive
Director of the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

11:33:11 Rep. James Reavis, House District 47

[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:38:03 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:38:19 Sen. Barry Usher

11:39:27 **Recessed**

13:00:06 **Reconvened**

LEGISLATION UPDATE

13:00:07 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

13:00:16 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:02:06 Sen. Barry Usher
13:02:37 Laura Sherley, LSD
13:02:52 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

LEGISLATION UPDATE - Continued

13:03:15 Sen. Barry Usher
(See Exhibit 17)
13:04:37 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:07:32 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, LSD
13:07:50 Sen. Barry Usher
13:17:00 Sen. Vince Ricci
13:17:07 Sen. Barry Usher
13:19:46 Sen. Shane Morigeau
13:21:52 Sen. Barry Usher

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM WITHIN LJIC'S JURISDICTION

13:25:15 None

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

13:25:26 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Work Plan Decision Matrix

13:25:47 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)
(See Exhibit 15)

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:26:49 Sen. Shane Morigeau

Work Plan Decision Matrix - Continued

13:27:05 Laura Sherley, LSD

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:27:36 Rep. Ed Stafman
(See Exhibit 11)
13:28:07 Laura Sherley
13:28:26 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Work Plan Decision Matrix - Continued

13:29:24 Laura Sherley

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:30:27 Rep. Ed Stafman
13:30:54 Laura Sherley
13:31:02 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, LSD
13:31:41 Rep. Ed Stafman
13:33:14 Sen. Shane Morigeau
13:34:01 Sen. Barry Usher
13:34:24 Rep. Ed Stafman

Motion

13:37:23 Sen. Barry Usher moved to remove the member requested topic of 'Collection of Medical Debt' from the committee's interim work plan.
13:37:46 Rep. Braxton Mitchell seconded the motion.

Discussion on the Motion

13:38:15 Rep. Ed Stafman
13:38:27 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:38:43 Rep. Ed Stafman
13:40:29 Sen. Sue Vinton

Vote

13:41:33 Carried 6-3 by roll call vote with Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr, Rep. Ed Stafman, and Sen. Shane Morigeau voting 'no'. Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr by proxy.

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:42:43 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:42:48 Sen. Sue Vinton
13:42:55 Sen. Barry Usher
13:43:39 Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
13:45:10 Sen. Barry Usher
13:45:33 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
13:47:47 Director Nanette Gilbertson
13:48:27 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
13:48:45 Laura Sherley
13:49:23 Sen. Barry Usher
13:50:13 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:50:36 Laura Sherley
13:51:23 Sen. Barry Usher
13:51:43 Rep. Ed Stafman
13:51:53 Sen. Barry Usher

Motion

13:54:50 Rep. Ed Stafman moved to remove the member requested topic of 'Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction (HALO) Law' from the committee's interim work plan.

Vote

13:54:54 Failed 6-3 by roll call vote with Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr, Rep. Ed Stafman, and Sen. Shane Morigeau voting 'yes'. Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr by proxy.

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:55:44 Rep. Ed Stafman
13:56:05 Julianne Burkhardt, LSD
13:56:22 Sen. Vince Ricci
13:56:36 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:56:57 Rep. Steven Kelly

Motion

13:57:56 Rep. Steven Kelly moved to change the full-time equivalent (FTE) allocation for House Joint Resolution 32 from 0.1 to 0.075.

Vote

13:58:15 Carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:59:00 Sen. Barry Usher
13:59:48 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
14:00:11 Rep. Ed Stafman
14:00:33 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:00:51 Sen. Sue Vinton

Motion

14:01:39 Sen. Barry Usher moved to adopt the FTE allocation as shown in Exhibit 19 and the work plan as shown in Exhibit 11, except for the proposed meeting dates.

Vote

14:02:11 Carried 7-2 by voice vote with Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr and Rep. Ed Stafman voting 'no'. Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr by proxy.

Adopt Meeting Dates

14:02:32 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:02:44 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
14:03:01 Laura Sherley
14:03:18 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:03:23 Laura Sherley
14:03:32 Sen. Barry Usher

14:04:04 Laura Sherley
14:04:22 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:04:28