

# 2025-26 Law & Justice Interim Committee

## Work Plan Decision Matrix

The following studies were assigned to the LJIC by a study resolution assigned by the Legislative Council.

Topic	Source	Option A	Option B	Option C
Study on Youth Court Laws	<u>HJ 23</u>	<p><b>0.25 FTE</b></p> <p><b>All of option B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback</li> <li>Staff comparative analysis on juvenile justice laws in other states</li> <li>Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation</li> <li>Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request</li> <li><i>Optional:</i> Committee field trip to an in-state juvenile detention facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>° Final report</li> <li>° Staff papers</li> </ul>	<p><b>0.10 FTE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory scheme and legislative history of the Montana Youth Court Act</li> <li>OCA review of Youth Court Report Card reports and data trends</li> <li>Panel of youth court practitioners (prosecutor, defense attorney, district court judge, youth court services personnel)</li> <li>Panel or staff presentation on juvenile probation services, diversion programs, sentencing for convicted youth offenders</li> </ul> <p><b>Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>° Staff papers</li> <li>° Study summary</li> <li>° Legislation</li> </ul>	No Action
Study of advanced investigator qualifications for law enforcement	<u>HJ 32</u>	<p><b>0.25 FTE</b></p> <p>All of option B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey of Montana law enforcement agencies on the availability and quantity of peace officers who are qualified to investigate serious crimes</li> <li>Panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion on ways to increase the number of qualified serious crime investigators in Montana</li> <li>Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback</li> <li>Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation</li> </ul> <p><b>Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>° Staff papers</li> </ul>	<p><b>0.10 FTE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint DOC and DOJ presentation on current educational programs and opportunities for advanced crime investigators</li> <li>Panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of education for advanced investigators and opportunities to expand on training</li> <li>Staff background paper/presentation on training opportunities and/or collaborative actions taken in other states, plus funding sources</li> <li>Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation</li> </ul> <p><b>Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>° Final report</li> <li>° Legislation</li> </ul>	No Action

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Study of search and rescue services and funding	<a href="#">HJ 56</a>	<b>0.25 FTE</b>  <b>All of option B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Staff analysis and report on tribal search and rescue programs, including funding sources</li><li>Staff research and comparison of other states in relation to funding for search and rescue (where it comes from and how it is distributed)</li><li>Panel discussion or roundtable involving search and rescue personnel at the county and tribal levels</li><li>Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation</li><li>Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request</li></ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Staff papers</li><li>Staff report</li></ul>	<b>0.10 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Panel discussion with agencies responsible for funding and distribution of funds for search and rescue, including the possibility of centralizing funding and reimbursement or increased collaboration</li><li>Staff background paper outlining the process for securing reimbursement by county and tribal search and rescue programs for each funding source listed in the study</li><li>Final report on committee activities, findings, and requested legislation</li></ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Staff papers</li><li>Final report</li><li>Legislation</li></ul>	No Action
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The following topics were suggested by members for LJIC consideration. They are OPTIONAL.

Topic	Source	Option A	Option B	Option C
Review Montana DUI Laws and related 2025 Legislation	Rep. Kelly Rep. Regier	<b>0.25 FTE</b>  <b>All of option B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback</li><li>Staff comparative analysis on DUI laws in surrounding states</li><li>Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation</li><li>Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request</li></ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Staff papers</li><li>Staff report</li></ul>	<b>0.10 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review of DUI and related legislation from the 2025 Legislative session</li><li>Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory scheme and legislative history of Montana's DUI laws</li><li>Stakeholder panel and/or expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee</li><li>Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation</li></ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Final report</li><li>Staff papers</li><li>Legislation</li></ul>	No Action

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Collection of Medical Debt	<a href="#">HB 273</a> Rep. Stafman	<b>0.15 FTE</b>  <b>All of option B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff background paper and comparative analysis on Montana's current statutory scheme and statutory models in other states</li> <li>Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff paper</li> </ul>	<b>0.05 FTE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder panel based on testimony on HB 273 (2025) from the 2025 Legislative session</li> <li>Expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee</li> <li>Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final report</li> <li>Legislation</li> </ul>	No Action
HALO Law: Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction	Sen. Usher	<b>0.15 FTE</b>  <b>All of option B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback</li> <li>Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final report</li> <li>Staff papers</li> </ul>	<b>0.10 FTE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory scheme and legislative history of Montana's right of way for stationary emergency personnel and highway worker laws</li> <li>Research and staff comparative analysis of similar laws in surrounding states</li> <li>Stakeholder panel and/or expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff papers</li> <li>Study summary</li> <li>Legislation</li> </ul>	No Action
Reference Checks for Public Safety Officers	Sen. Usher	<b>0.15 FTE</b>  <b>All of option B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation</li> <li>Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final report</li> <li>Staff papers</li> </ul>	<b>0.10 FTE</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research and staff comparative analysis of similar laws in other states</li> <li>POST presentation</li> <li>Stakeholder panel and/or expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee</li> </ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff papers</li> <li>Study summary</li> <li>Legislation</li> </ul>	No Action

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The following are LJIC’s statutory duties

Duty	Option B	Option C	
Monitor agency operations	<b>0.15 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Option C</li><li>◦ Staff attends Helena-area agency meetings and presentations as possible, focusing on issues or topics raised by LJIC members or during meetings</li><li>◦ Additional research into aspects of selected programs or agencies, as requested</li><li>◦ Panel discussion or speakers during LJIC meeting(s) to further address the program or agency</li><li>◦ Receive updates on implementation of agency measures and legislation, as requested by LJIC</li></ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Written summaries of research and monitoring activities</li><li>◦ Legislation</li></ul>	<b>0.05 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Introductory presentation by agency at 1<sup>st</sup> meeting</li><li>◦ Follow up presentations as requested by LJIC</li><li>◦ Limited monitoring or research into aspects of a program or agency (if LJIC chooses)</li></ul>	
Agency monitoring: required reports *See page 5 of the draft work plan for a list of required reports	<b>0.02 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Option C</li><li>◦ Agency presents report during LJIC meeting</li><li>◦ Follow-up information or presentations provided upon request of LJIC</li></ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Printed and electronic copies of required report</li><li>◦ Legislation</li></ul>	<b>0.005 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Receive written staff overview of required reports</li><li>◦ Receive copy of any required report</li></ul> <b>Deliverables:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Printed and electronic copies of required report</li><li>◦ Legislation</li></ul>	
Review administrative rules	<b>0.1 FTE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Legal staff monitors agency adoption of rules and provides LJIC periodic rule reports</li><li>◦ Staff will note issues of concern</li><li>◦ LJIC may flag rules as important or of concern and may ask that additional information be provided</li></ul>		

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Review agency legislation		<b>0.005 FTE</b>  ◦ Committee reviews proposals from the agencies and Judicial Branch in early summer 2024; may authorize staff to draft legislation for preintroduction		
Agency monitoring: advisory councils and commissions, if requested by an LJIC member		<b>0.02 FTE</b>  ◦ Option C ◦ Written summary of specific council or commission’s duties, functions, operations ◦ Agency presentation on work of the council or commission <b>Deliverables:</b> ◦ Staff overview ◦ Written summary ◦ Legislation	<b>0.005 FTE</b>  ◦ Receive written staff overview of advisory councils and commissions at late fall 2024 meeting <b>Deliverables:</b> ◦ Staff overview ◦ Legislation	<b>*Add .01 FTE</b> for EACH addition by LJIC
The following are potential agenda items suggested by LJIC members or other sources. They are OPTIONAL.				
Interact with MARA	MARA staff suggestion	<b>.005 FTE</b>  ○ Receive updates from MARA staff on topics that relate to criminal justice. ○ If the LJIC presiding officers are invited to attend a MARA committee, receive updates from the presiding officers.		<b>No Action</b>
Monitoring Implementation of 2025 Legislation	*If requested	<b>.005 FTE</b>  ○ Review the outcome of 2025 legislation requested by the committee <b>Deliverables:</b> Legislation, if requested by the committee		<b>No Action</b>
Total Resources Utilized/ Total Resources Available				/0.75 FTE