# LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE



## **DRAFT** 2025 – 2026 WORK PLAN

PREPARED FOR LJIC JULY 16, 2025 MEETING (UPDATED 7/11)

Purpose: To help the LJIC plan its interim and establish work priorities. When finalized, the work plan will provide guidance to the members, staff, and public on how the LJIC will conduct its business throughout the interim. It will serve as a blueprint that allows the LJIC to complete its work over the next 15 months.

**DRAFT** 

Prepared by Laura Sherley, Research Analyst

July 2025



P.O. Box 201706 Helena, MT 59620-1706 Phone: (406) 444-3064 Fax: (406) 444-3971

Website: <a href="https://committees.legmt.gov">https://committees.legmt.gov</a>

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## INTRODUCTION

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF, 2025-2026**

Before the close of each legislative session, House and Senate leadership appoint lawmakers to interim committees. The members of the Law and Justice Interim Committee, like most other interim committees, serve one 20-month term. Members who are reelected to the Legislature, subject to overall term limits, and if appointed, may serve again on an interim committee. This information is included to comply with <u>2-15-155, MCA</u>.

| Committee Members                                  | Phone            | Email                      |
|--|------------------|----------------------------|
| Rep. Steven Kelly (R – HD 9 – Kalispell)           | (406) 309 - 0275 | Steven.Kelly@legmt.gov     |
| Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R – HD 55 – Columbia Falls) |                  | Braxton.Mitchell@legmt.gov |
| Rep. Amy Regier (R – HD 83 – Kalispell)            | (406) 253 - 8421 | Amy.Regier@legmt.gov       |
| Rep. Ed Stafman (D – HD 50 – Bozeman)              | (406) 640 - 3362 | Ed.Stafman@legmt.gov       |
| Rep. Zooey Zephyr (D – HD 20 – Missoula)           |                  | Zooey.Zephyr@legmt.gov     |
| Sen. Shane Morigeau (D - SD 40 - Missoula)         | (406) 546 - 4290 | Shane.Morigeau@legmt.gov   |
| Sen. Vince Ricci (R - SD 22 - Billings)            | (406) 855 - 9153 | Vince.Ricci@legmt.gov      |
| Sen. Barry Usher (R - SD 41 - Billings)            | (406) 252 - 2888 | Barry.Usher@legmt.gov      |
| Sen. Sue Vinton (R – SD 20 – Billings)             | (406) 855 - 2625 | Sue.Vinton@legmt.gov       |

| Staff                                | Phone            | Email                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Laura Sherley, Research Analyst      | (406) 444 - 4408 | Laura.Sherley@legmt.gov      |
| Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney         | (406) 444 - 4025 | Julianne.Burkhardt@legmt.gov |
| Ania Alduenda, Legislative Secretary | (406) 444 - 9541 | Ania.Alduenda.legmt.gov      |



#### ABOUT THE LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE (LJIC)

The LJIC is one of several interim committees established by law and required to meet in the months between regular legislative sessions. Interim committees provide oversight of various state agencies, conduct interim studies as needed and as assigned by the Legislative Council, and propose legislation for consideration at the next legislative session. The interim committees also provide Montana's citizens an opportunity to give testimony on their experiences to the state government.

The LJIC is responsible for monitoring the activities of the Office of the State Public Defender (OPD), the Department of Corrections (DOC), the Department of Justice (DOJ)<sup>1</sup>, and any entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes. The administratively attached entities that the LJIC monitors are:

- the Board of Pardons and Parole (attached to DOC);
- the Board of Crime Control (attached to DOJ);
- the Public Safety Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council (attached to DOJ);
- the End of Watch Trust Board (attached to DOJ); and
- the Gaming Advisory Council (attached to DOJ).

The committee also serves as the liaison to the Judicial Branch.

#### COMMITTEE PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The LJIC is subject to the Legislative Council's Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees. The rules and guidelines provide structure and outline the requirements for the interim committees' work, including public notice and participation requirements, parliamentary procedures, legislative reimbursement, and the use of staff. The Council also suggests that interim committees complete their work by September 15, 2026.

A 10-day advance public notice will be given for all regular meetings and the public will be given an opportunity to comment on any matter within the committee's jurisdiction during meetings. The presiding officer may establish time limits for public comment if necessary.

Meeting agendas, links, documents, and other information can be found on the <u>LJIC webpage</u><sup>2</sup>. Interested persons may also sign up to receive electronic meeting notifications at <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTLSB/subscriber/new">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MTLSB/subscriber/new</a>.

#### **PROXY VOTES**

The <u>Legislative Council's Rules</u>, <u>Procedures</u>, <u>and Guidelines</u> guide the use of proxy votes in interim committees. Generally, the use of proxies is discouraged. However, "[f]or the exercise of a proxy to be valid, the deputized member shall hold a written proxy from the absent member." [Legislative Council's Rule, page 2] Unless the LJIC approves a different proxy policy, the Legislative Council policy applies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://committees.legmt.gov/#/nonStandingCommittees/2



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Except for the Motor Vehicles Division, which will be overseen by the Transportation Interim Committee.

## **WORK PLAN**

#### **HOW THE LJIC PLANS ITS WORK**

#### **DEVELOPING A WORK PLAN**

The LJIC establishes its work plan at the beginning of the interim by revising the work plan during the organizational meeting and finalizing it at the fall meeting, if needed. The work plan is a blueprint for the interim. The primary constraint limiting the committee's work during the interim is the number of issues that can be effectively addressed within the available time and resources of the committee members and its staff.

This 2025-2026 work plan sets priorities and outlines how and where the LJIC will allocate its time and resources. Staff will use decisions made at the organizational meeting in July to develop plans to complete the committee's work by the September 15, 2026, interim end date.

#### The work plan includes:

- Background on the LJIC and its duties;
- A description of draft study topics and plans to address those topics; and
- A draft committee meeting schedule.

The work plan is flexible and can be adjusted by the LJIC later if other issues require the committee's attention.

This 2025-2026 Draft Interim Work Plan is a decision-making tool to help committee members work together efficiently to set priorities and decide how and where to spend the LJIC's limited time and resources. The work plan sets out a strategy for fulfilling the LJIC's responsibilities throughout the 2025-2026 interim. Once the LJIC collectively makes a decision on the work plan, it will become a blueprint for the interim. Staff will develop detailed work plans and timetables for each major study.

#### THE DRAFT DECISION MATRIX

The attached LJIC Work Plan Decision Matrix, a separate document, provides a side-by-side comparison of topics and allows for review of time allocations to each topic. This draft work plan is used in conjunction with it and includes estimates for total staff time available to the LJIC. However, please note that many topics also require meeting time for updates, panel presentations, and committee discussions.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Review the potential topics, including assigned studies, statutory duties, and any member-suggested topics presented with this work plan or suggested during the committee's work session.
- 2. Prioritize the topics you want the LJIC to focus on this interim.
- 3. Select the FTE you wish to allocate to each of the topics in which you're interested. The LJIC may adjust the proposed FTE and corresponding level of study. Because LJIC shares staff with the Criminal Justice Oversight Council, **the total allocation available is 0.75 FTE**. The options you chose should total no more than 0.75 FTE. Use the draft decision matrix to assist you with this process.



#### WORK PLAN TOPICS

Work plan topics include statutorily assigned responsibilities, study resolutions enacted by the 2025 Legislature and assigned to committees by the Legislative Council, review proposed statewide initiatives within the LJIC subject areas, and study topics suggested by legislators. Each is discussed further in this section.

#### STATUTORY DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS

The LJIC is assigned additional responsibilities from several statutory sources, including the primary statute governing all interim committees' work: <u>Section 5-5-215, MCA</u>.

- Conduct interim studies as assigned. The committee may recommend to the Legislative Council that a study be assigned to another committee or not be conducted.
- 2. **Review administrative rules** of the agencies assigned to the LJIC for oversight. A list of those agencies is on page 4 of this document.
- 3. **Review legislation** proposed by the agencies and the Judicial Branch. Bills requested by an individual member of the Legislature are not subject to this requirement. The review and authorization process is not an endorsement by the LJIC of the agency proposals.
- 4. Complete additional statutory duties, including receiving reports required by law to be given to the LJIC.
- 5. Monitor the operation of the agencies assigned to the LJIC with specific attention to the following:
  - a. identification of issues likely to require future legislative attention;
  - b. opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems; and
  - c. experiences of Montana's citizens with the operation of the agency that may be amenable to improvement through legislative action.
- 6. Review proposed ballot initiatives\* in the LJIC's subject area.3 (See NOTE on page 11)
- 7. **(Committee-driven):** Prepare bills and resolutions that, in the committee's opinion, the welfare of the state may require for presentation to the next regular session.
- 8. **(Committee-driven):** Compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing on the committee's assignment and relevant to existing or prospective legislation that the committee determines to be pertinent to the adequate completion of its work.

The LJIC is also required by <u>section 5-5-226, MCA</u> to act as the liaison with the judiciary. In this capacity, the committee receives updates from court members and staff, receives statutorily required reports, and reviews legislation requested by the Judicial Branch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Chapter 554, Laws of 2021 (HB 651)



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#### REQUIRED REPORTS

Various laws require agencies to submit specific reports to LJIC by September 1 of the year preceding a legislative session, unless otherwise directed in statute. LJIC may also request a presentation on a specific report from the agency. These reports are submitted in compliance with <u>5-11-210</u>, <u>MCA</u>, which establishes the Legislative Services Division as the clearinghouse for the reports.

| Agency or Branch      | Description  | Law and Timeline*                                 |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Judicial Branch       | Out-of-home placements report  | Biennially, section <u>41-5-2003</u>              |
| Judicial Branch       | Pending civil cases report   | Quarterly for fiscal year, section <u>3-1-713</u> |
| Judicial Branch       | Judicial Standards Review Commission<br>Report   | Biennially, section <u>3-1-1126</u>               |
| Department of Justice | Annual Performance Report  | Annually by 10/1, section <u>2-12-105</u>         |
| Department of Justice | Domestic Violence Fatality Review<br>Commission report   | Biennially, section <u>2-15-2017</u>              |
| Department of Justice | Statewide Public Safety<br>Communications System report  | Biennially, section <u>44-4-1606</u>              |
| Department of Justice | Montana False Claims Act report  | Biennially, section <u>17-8-416</u>               |
| Department of Justice | HB 640 status report on childhood sexual assault prosecutions  | Annually by 9/1, section <u>41-3-210</u>          |
| Department of Justice | Public Safety Officer Standards and<br>Training (POST) Council pending<br>investigations quarterly reports | Quarterly, section <u>44-4-408</u>                |
| Department of Justice | Judicial Performance Evaluation<br>Commission report   | By 9/1/26, <u>SB 45 (2025)</u>                    |
| Department of Justice | County aggregated information on cases of exploited, incapacitated, or vulnerable adults                   | Annually by 9/1, <u>HB 743 (2025)</u>             |
| Department of Justice | Fentanyl Mandatory Minimum Report  | Annually by 9/1, section <u>2-15-505</u>          |
| Department of Justice | Facial Recognition for Government Use<br>Act report  | Annually by 9/1, section <u>44-15-111</u>         |
| Department of Justice | Sexual Assault Response Network annual report  | Annually by 9/1, section <u>44-4-1705</u>         |



| Board of Crime Control                               | Restorative justice grant programs   | Annually, section <u>44-7-302</u>  |
|--|--|--|
| Board of Crime Control                               | Crisis intervention team training program  | By 9/15 of each even-numbered year, section <u>44-7-110</u>                  |
| Board of Crime Control                               | Criminal Justice Data Warehouse biennial report  | By Sept 15, 2026, <u>HB 117 (2025)</u>                                       |
| Criminal Justice Oversight<br>Council                | Biennial report  | Biennially, section <u>53-1-216</u>  |
| Department of Corrections                            | Annual Performance Report  | Annually by 10/1, section <u>2-12-105</u>                                    |
| Department of Corrections                            | MIIG supervision grid  | Biennially, section <u>46-23-1028</u>  |
| Department of Corrections                            | Quality Assurance Unit   | Annually, section <u>53-1-211</u>  |
| Office of State Public<br>Defender                   | Annual Performance Report  | Annually by 10/1, section <u>2-12-105</u>                                    |
| Office of State Public<br>Defender                   | Biennial report  | Biennially, section <u>47-1-125</u>  |
| Office of State Public<br>Defender                   | 5-year funding report  | Every 5 years, <u>47-1-125</u> (next due 2026)                               |
| Criminal Justice Oversight<br>Council                | Biennial report  | Biennially, section <u>53-1-216</u><br>(Will be recodified – <u>SB 162</u> ) |
| Department of Public<br>Health and Human<br>Services | Number of referrals to county attorneys for exploited, incapacitated, or vulnerable adults | Biennially by 9/15 of each even-<br>numbered year, <u>HB 743 (2025)</u>      |
| Department of Labor and Industry                     | Report on services provided by the office of reentry services                              | By July 1 prior to each legislative session, HB 718 (2025)                   |

<sup>\*</sup>Unless otherwise stated, biennial reports are usually due by September 1 of the year prior to a legislative session.

#### STUDIES ASSIGNED TO THE LJIC

The Legislative Council assigned three studies to the LJIC for the 2025-2026 interim:

- HJ 23: Interim study on youth court laws
- HJ 32: Interim study of advanced investigator qualifications for law enforcement
- HJ 56: Interim study of search and rescue services and funding



Priorities for each study are expressed in staff hours (or FTE). Most studies have 3-4 options, ranging from a full-blown, in-depth study to no action. While the LJIC can choose its preferred level of involvement for each study, most interim studies can be broken into three main stages:

- **Stage 1: Compile Background Information** This stage is typically the most extensive and includes several steps designed to help an interim committee gather background information about a study topic. It sets the foundation for the rest of the committee's work in the policy area. Information is typically generated from reviews of existing laws, research conducted by legislative staff, and information provided by stakeholders through panel presentations or written materials.
- Stage 2: Identify and Research Issues In this stage, committee members identify problems that could be addressed through further study, legislation, or other action. Study activities in Stage 2 may include further research conducted by legislative staff and additional presentations from stakeholders or policy experts.
- Stage 3: Develop/Finalize Recommendations After compiling background information, identifying issues, and researching options, the committee can discuss and act on the recommendations it wants to make to the Legislature or others, as well as any legislation it intends to forward to the next Legislature.

If the LJIC chooses not to take action on a study, it should inform the Legislative Council of its recommendation. Below are summaries of each study assigned to the LJIC. Detailed information can be found on the LJIC Work Plan Decision Matrix.

#### HJ 23: INTERIM STUDY ON YOUTH COURT LAWS

#### SPONSOR: REP. REAVIS

House Joint Resolution 23 requests that the LJIC study and propose legislation to simplify and streamline the Montana Youth Court Act, with a focus on procedural improvements.

| Option A - 0.25 F11 | 3 |
|---------------------|---|
|---------------------|---|

#### All of option B

Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback

Staff comparative analysis on juvenile justice laws in other states

Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation

Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request

*Optional*. Committee field trip to an in-state juvenile detention facility.

#### Option B - 0.10 FTE

Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory scheme and legislative history of the Montana Youth Court Act

OCA review of Youth Court Report Card reports and data trends

Panel of youth court practitioners (prosecutor, defense attorney, district court judge, youth court services personnel)

Panel or staff presentation on juvenile probation services, diversion programs, sentencing for convicted youth offenders

**Option C:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study



#### SPONSOR: REP. KELLY

All of option B

House Joint Resolution 32 requests that the LJIC review training opportunities related to investigating serious crimes and propose legislation to improve the qualifications for investigators of serious crimes.

#### Option A - 0.25 FTE

#### Option A - 0.23 i ii

Survey of Montana law enforcement agencies on the availability and quantity of peace officers who are qualified to investigate serious crimes

Panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion on ways to increase the number of qualified serious crime investigators in Montana

Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback

Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation

#### Option B - 0.10 FTE

Joint DOC and DOJ presentation on current educational programs and opportunities for advanced crime investigators

Panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of education for advanced investigators and opportunities to expand on training

Staff background paper/presentation on training opportunities and/or collaborative actions taken in other states, plus funding sources

Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation

**Option C:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study

#### HJ 56: INTERIM STUDY OF SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES AND FUNDING

#### SPONSOR: REP. MITCHELL

House Joint Resolution 56 requests that the LJIC examine sources of funding and methods of reimbursement for search and rescue operations in Montana.

#### Option A - 0.25 FTE

#### All of option B

Staff analysis and report on tribal search and rescue programs, including funding sources

Staff research and comparison of other states in relation to funding for search and rescue (where it comes from and how it is distributed)

Panel discussion or roundtable involving search and rescue personnel at the county and tribal levels

Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation

Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request

#### Option B - 0.10 FTE

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

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

Final report on committee activities, findings, and requested legislation

**Option C:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study



#### MEMBER SUGGESTED TOPICS

#### REVIEW MONTANA DUI LAWS AND RELATED 2025 LEGISLATION

#### REQUESTED BY: REP. KELLY AND REP. REGIER

The 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature considered many pieces of legislation that addressed Montana's DUI laws. This request is for the LJIC to review DUI and related legislation that was not passed and approved by the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature, consider what issues should be further discussed, and propose legislation on any solutions identified.

| Option A - 0.25 FTE   | Option B - 0.10 FTE   |
|---|---|
| All of option B  Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges | Review of DUI and related legislation from the 2025<br>Legislative session                              |
| of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback | Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory scheme and legislative history of Montana's DUI laws |
| Staff comparative analysis on DUI laws in surrounding states        | Stakeholder panel and/or expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee                         |
| Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation | Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-       |
| Additional presentation(s) at the committee's request               | requested legislation   |

**Option C:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study

#### COLLECTION OF MEDICAL DEBT

#### REQUESTED BY: REP. STAFMAN

<u>House Bill 273</u> was introduced during the 2025 Legislative Session and failed second reading on the House Floor. The legislation aimed to provide important protections for patients by eliminating wage garnishment to pay medical debt, creating a waiting period before medical bills can be sent to collections, providing patients with the opportunity to appeal insurance decisions before a bill goes to collections, and protecting bank accounts from being seized to pay medical debt. This request is for LJIC to review the issues identified in HB 273 and propose improved legislation to the 70<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

| Option A - 0.15 FTE   | Option B - 0.05 FTE   |
|---|---|
| All of option B  Staff background paper and comparative analysis on Montana's current statutory scheme and statutory models in other states | Stakeholder panel based on testimony on HB 273 (2025) from the 2025 Legislative session  Expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee |
| Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation   | Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation                          |

**Option C:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study



#### REQUESTED BY: SEN. USHER

Florida's "Halo Law" (<u>House Bill 184, 2024</u><sup>4</sup>) creates a protective 25-foot buffer zone around law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical crews engaged in their official duties. The Halo Law aims to safeguard first responders from harassment, threats, and physical interference. This request is for LJIC to review the Halo Law and consider potential legislation to enact a similar law, if needed, in Montana.

| Option A - 0.15 FTE  | Option B - 0.10 FTE   |
|--|---|
| All of option B  | Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory  |
| Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback | scheme and legislative history of Montana's right of<br>way for stationary emergency personnel and highway<br>worker laws |
| Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation  | Research and staff comparative analysis of similar laws in surrounding states   |
|  | Stakeholder panel and/or expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee   |

**Option C:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study

#### BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

#### REQUESTED BY: SEN. USHER

While law enforcement agencies can generally access the employment and disciplinary history of potential employees, police misconduct records are often protected or publicly restricted. Limited access to these records can result in departments hiring individuals with histories of misconduct, potentially leading to future problematic behavior and undermining public confidence. Until recently, the National Law Enforcement Accountability Database was an effort started to assist law enforcement agencies researching potential candidates, but an executive order<sup>5</sup> revoked the database on January 25, 2025. States have taken various approaches to address the situation, such as legislating their own decertification database similar to the NDI,<sup>6</sup> requiring law enforcement agencies to disclose certain information between agencies, or repealing existing confidentiality requirements to increase public access to records. This request is for LJIC to analyze the situation in Montana and, if necessary, propose legislation based on any issues and solutions identified.

| Option A - 0.15 FTE  | Option B - 0.10 FTE   |
|--|---|
| All of option B  Stakeholder roundtable discussion of  | Research and staff comparative analysis of similar laws in other states         |
| potential/proposed legislation   | POST presentation   |
| Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback | Stakeholder panel and/or expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee |

**Option C:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> National Decertification Database - https://www.iadlest.org/our-services/ndi/about-ndi



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/184/?Tab=BillText

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> EO 14074 - <a href="https://bjs.ojp.gov/national-law-enforcement-accountability-database">https://bjs.ojp.gov/national-law-enforcement-accountability-database</a>

#### REVIEW PROPOSED STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

The LJIC is required to review proposed statewide initiatives that relate to its subject area. The 68th Legislature enacted <u>Senate Bill 93</u> (SB 93) to clarify and revise the review process enacted in <u>House Bill 651</u> (HB 651) in 2021. The revised law provides that a statewide initiative includes a constitutional initiative, a constitutional convention initiative, or a statutory initiative.

Section 13 of SB 93 requires the interim committee to hold a public hearing on a statewide initiative referred to the committee by the executive director of the Legislative Services Division. The committee then votes to either support or not support the placement of the proposed statewide initiative on the ballot. The petition used to gather signatures to place the statewide initiative on the ballot must include the interim committee vote. SB 93 applies to statewide initiatives submitted to the secretary of state after May 19, 2023.

The review process may result in additional committee meetings because the committee vote must be submitted to the secretary of state no later than 14 days after receipt of the final text of the statewide initiative.

\*NOTE: The statutory requirement for interim committee review of ballot initiatives is being litigated at the Montana Supreme Court. Staff will update the committees when litigation is completed and if the committees have any duties in this area while the case is pending.

#### **COMMITTEE LEGISLATION**

An interim committee may, by vote, request **five (5)** bills on a partisan basis (only members from one party vote to request the draft), and an unlimited number of bill drafts on a bipartisan basis (members from more than one party vote to request the draft).<sup>8</sup>

#### ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR LJIC DISCUSSION

#### MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF 2025 LEGISLATION

The committee may choose to dedicate time to monitoring the implementation of any law and justice-related 2025 legislation to ensure compliance and evaluate its effectiveness. See the attached Summary of Law and Justice Legislation from the 2025 Legislation Session, a separate document, to review law and justice-related legislation enacted by the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

#### Option A - 0.05 FTE

Receive implementation updates from the appropriate entity identified based on the enacted 2025 legislation

Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation

**Option B:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this monitoring

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Established by Chapter 432, Laws of 2023 (SB 176), increased by Chapter 134, Laws of 2025 (HB 142)



4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ellingson v. State, Montana Supreme Court No. DA 25-0142 (Filed Feb. 18, 2025)

#### LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL MODERNIZATION AND RISK ANALYSIS (MARA) STUDY

The 67th Legislature enacted <u>HB 330</u> which created a "Financial Modernization and Risk Analysis" (MARA) study of the "long-term future budget and revenue needs with changing economics and demographics." The 68th Legislature passed <u>HB 140</u>, furthering the work of MARA, codifying it as an interim committee, and adding additional membership options that may affect the LJIC:

**Section 1. Modernization and risk analysis committee.** (1) There is a modernization and risk analysis committee. The committee shall study the long-term future budget and revenue needs of the state with changing economics and demographics.

- (2) The modernization and risk analysis committee is a bipartisan committee consisting of the following:
- (a) six members of the legislative finance committee, with three members appointed by the presiding officer and three members appointed by the vice presiding officer of the legislative finance committee; an
- (b) four members who are not officials or employees in the executive or legislative branches with two appointed by the presiding officer and two appointed by the vice presiding officer of the modernization and risk analysis committee; and
- (c) an interim committee chairperson and vice chairperson of opposite parties as temporary voting members of the committee. The presiding officer of the modernization and risk analysis committee shall invite the two members based on the relevance of at least one of the topics of the upcoming meeting to the subject matter under the jurisdiction of a specific interim committee. If the chairperson or vice chairperson of the interim committee is unable to attend, the chairperson or vice chairperson may designate a member of the interim committee. The interim committee chairperson and vice chairperson must be invited at least 30 days prior to the meeting date.

The LJIC may want to reserve time to receive updates on topics that MARA studies, which may have a crossover with law and justice topics.

#### Option A - 0.05 FTE

Receive updates from MARA staff on topics that are related to law and justice.

If the LJIC presiding officers are invited to attend a MARA committee, receive updates from presiding officers.

**Option B:** The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study

#### INDIVIDUAL MEMBER RESEARCH REQUESTS

Individual members of the committee may seek additional information on issues that fall under the jurisdiction of the LJIC. These issues may be raised by constituents, may be emerging problems in Montana or other states, or may be of interest to a particular member. If the committee chooses not to pursue information on a topic, the individual committee member may submit a research request. Under rules adopted by the Legislative Council, a staff member may provide **up to 16 hours** of research for a request that is not included in a committee's work plan unless the presiding officer of the interim committee approves additional research time.



#### **DRAFT** MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORK PLAN TIMELINE

The following meeting dates provide a tentative schedule for the interim. This work plan proposes 10 meeting days, including the organizational meeting. If the LJIC forms a subcommittee, the number of meeting days for the full committee may be reduced. A more specific outline of potential tasks for each meeting will be tracked in a separate meeting chart once the LJIC adopts a work plan.

Committee members may change the dates as their schedules allow to better reflect their needs for the interim and any changing priorities as the interim progresses. However, because the LJIC shares 8 members with a combination of 7 other interim committees and shares staff with other commissions and committees, changing or adding meeting dates after the LJIC adopts a work plan is discouraged.

| July 16, 2025 (W)           | Organizational Meeting.  - Interim work plan prioritization and other organizational tasks  - Agency introductions and overviews  - Selection of studies and topics  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| September 10, 2025 (W)      | <ul><li>1-day meeting.</li><li>- Adoption of the final work plan</li><li>- Review of the initial interim meeting chart and future meeting topics</li><li>- Start studies and continue agency oversight</li></ul> |
| November 19-20, 2025 (W-Th) | <ul><li>1-day meeting.</li><li>- Continue studies and agency oversight</li></ul>   |
| January 16, 2026 (F)        | <ul><li>1-day meeting.</li><li>- Continue studies and agency oversight</li></ul>   |
| March 12-13, 2026 (Th-F)    | <ul><li>2-day meeting.</li><li>Continue studies and agency oversight</li><li>Develop/discuss any draft recommendations</li><li>Develop topics for final reports, if any</li></ul>                                |
| May 7, 2026 (Th)            | <ul><li>1-day meeting.</li><li>- Continue studies and agency oversight</li><li>- Develop/discuss any draft recommendations</li></ul>   |
| July 14, 2026 (Tu)          | <ul><li>1-day meeting.</li><li>- Continue studies and agency oversight</li><li>- Develop/discuss any draft recommendations</li></ul>   |
| September 1, 2026 (Tu)      | Final meeting.  - Final approval of recommendations, reports, and proposed legislation  - Select bill sponsors  - Authorize agency bill draft requests   |

\*All dates are tentative and subject to change by the committee\*



#### ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULES

LJIC shares 5 out of 9 members with at least 7 other meeting groups, listed below. The tentative dates for those groups are below but are subject to change. Staff will prioritize avoiding conflicts with these other groups when scheduling LJIC meetings, but please be advised that moving meetings once they are set may be challenging.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Sen. Barry Usher Rep. Amy Regier

> July 23, 2025 Sept 11, 2025 Nov 18, 2025 Jan 15, 2026 Mar 11, 2026 May 6, 2026 July 15, 2026

Sept 2, 2026

#### **EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Sen. Sue Vinton

TBD

#### INTERIM BUDGET COMMITTEE - SECTION D

Sen. Shane Morigeau

Sept 16-17, 2025

Dec 16-17, 2025

Mar 17-18, 2026

June 16-17, 2026

Sept 15-16, 2026

Dec 15-16, 2026

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLANNING COUNCIL

Rep. Braxton Mitchell

TRD

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Sen. Sue Vinton

Aug 25-26, 2025

Oct 28, 2025

Feb 24, 2026

June 9, 2026

Aug 4, 2026

Nov 1, 2026

#### LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sen. Shane Morigeau

Sept 18, 2025

Dec 18, 2025

Mar 19, 2026

June 18, 2026

Sept 17, 2026

Dec 17, 2026

#### SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION

Sen. Sue Vinton

**TBD** 

