

2025-26 Law & Justice Interim Committee

Work Plan Decision Matrix - **Adopted July 16, 2025**

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>0.25 FTE</p> <p>All of option B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>Optional:</i> Committee field trip to an in-state juvenile detention facility. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Final report ° Staff papers 	<p>0.10 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Staff papers ° Study summary ° Legislation 	No Action
Study of advanced investigator qualifications for law enforcement	<u>HJ 32</u>	<p>0.25 FTE</p> <p>All of option B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Staff papers 	<p>0.075 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint DOC and DOJ presentation on current educational programs and opportunities for advanced crime investigators Panel 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 <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ° Final report ° Legislation 	No Action

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Study of search and rescue services and funding	<u>HJ 56</u>	0.25 FTE All of option B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff papers Staff report 	0.05 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) presentation Background paper(s) 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 Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff papers Final report Legislation 	No Action
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	0.25 FTE All of option B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of the current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback Staff comparative analysis on DUI laws in surrounding states Stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff papers Staff report 	0.10 FTE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of DUI and related legislation from the 2025 Legislative session Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory scheme and legislative history of Montana's DUI laws Stakeholder panel and/or expert presentation(s) at the request of the committee Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report Staff papers Legislation 	No Action

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

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

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Review agency legislation		0.005 FTE ◦ 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		0.02 FTE ◦ Option C ◦ Written summary of specific council or commission’s duties, functions, operations ◦ Agency presentation on work of the council or commission Deliverables: ◦ Staff overview ◦ Written summary ◦ Legislation	0.005 FTE ◦ Receive written staff overview of advisory councils and commissions at late fall 2024 meeting Deliverables: ◦ Staff overview ◦ Legislation	*Add .01 FTE 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	0.005 FTE ◦ 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.		No Action
Monitoring Implementation of 2025 bills	*If requested	0.005 FTE ◦ Review the outcome of 2025 legislation requested by the committee		No Action
Review outcome of SJOR legislation	Sen. Usher	0.001 FTE ◦ Review the outcome of legislation requested by the Senate Select Committee on Judicial Oversight and Reform Deliverables: Legislation, if requested by the committee		
Tour of MCA services and programs	Sen. Usher	0.010 FTE ◦ Tour of Montana Community Corrections Association services and programs		
Total Resources Utilized/ Total Resources Available				0.66*/0.75 FTE

*The committee reserved 0.09 FTE for emerging issues.