



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Pat Flowers
Derek Harvey
Matt Regier
Laura Smith
Sue Vinton

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jodee Etchart
Steve Fitzpatrick
Randyn Gregg
Jonathan Karlen
Brandon Ler
Jennifer Lynch
Katie Sullivan

COMMITTEE STAFF

Allison Dunbar - Secretary
Todd Everts - Legal Services Director
Jerry Howe - Executive Director

MINUTES LOG

June 10, 2025
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:

Sen. Matt Regier (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Sen. Laura Smith (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division

Todd Everts, Legal Services Director, Legislative Services Division
Allison Dunbar, Secretary

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

11:04:16 Presiding Officer Matt Regier called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

SELECTION OF NEW CHAIR

11:07:16 Presiding Officer Matt Regier

Motion

11:07:59 Presiding Officer Matt Regier announced that he is unable to serve as chair of the Council and moved that the Council appoint Sen. Bogner to serve as chair.

Vote

11:07:16 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Council Questions / Discussion

11:08:22 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

11:09:49 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

11:14:20 Rep. Johnathan Karlen joined the meeting.

11:16:24 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

SESSION STATISTICS

11:16:50 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Council Questions / Discussion

11:21:47 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

11:21:51 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

11:22:37 Jerry Howe

11:24:34 Sen. Sue Vinton

11:27:29 Rep. Katie Sullivan

11:27:56 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

COMPENSATION TIME

11:29:51 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Council Questions / Discussion

11:38:10 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

11:38:14 Sen. Matt Regier

11:38:26 Jerry Howe, LSD

COMPUTER SYSTEM UPDATE

11:41:59 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

11:42:09 Sen. Matt Regier

Council Questions / Discussion

11:43:56 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

11:44:12 Jerry Howe

11:45:24 Sen. Matt Regier

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION: Adopt Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees

11:46:02 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Council Questions / Discussion

11:46:38 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

11:47:00 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

11:48:40 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

11:48:49 Jerry Howe, LSD

11:48:55 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

11:49:33 Todd Everts, Legal Director, LSD

Motion

11:50:41 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers moved to adopt the Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees as proposed.

Vote

11:52:00 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION: Adopt Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committee – Continued

11:51:47 Jerry Howe, LSD
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Motion

11:52:10 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers moved that a portion of Joe Triem's salary continue to be paid from HB 856 appropriations.

Vote

11:52:41 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION: Authorize Interim Committees Membership that exceeds statutory limits

11:57:24 Rep. Brandon Ler

Council Questions / Discussion

12:00:00 Rep. Katie Sullivan
12:00:13 Angie Carter, Financial Director, LSD
12:00:34 Rep. Brandon Ler
12:01:25 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
12:01:36 Sen. Derek Harvey
12:01:58 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
12:02:14 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
12:02:36 Jerry Howe
12:04:10 Rep. Jennifer Lynch

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION: Appoint Legislators to National Conference of State Legislature, Council of State Legislatures, Pacific Northwest Economic Region, and Council of State Governments (NCSL, PNWR, and CSG)

12:04:37 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
12:05:35 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Motion

12:05:58 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers moved to adopt Legislator assignments as listed for NCSL, PNWR, and CSG.

Vote

12:06:19 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION: Appoint Legislators to National Conference of State Legislature, Council of State Legislatures, Pacific Northwest Economic Region, and Council of State Governments - Continued

12:06:17 Jerry Howe, LSD

Council Questions / Discussion

12:06:52 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
12:07:41 Sen. Matt Regier
12:08:22 Rep. Brandon Ler
12:08:39 Sen. Derek Harvey

Motion

12:09:56 Sen. Matt Regier moved to adopt plan as presented for the Pacific Northwest Economic Region.

Vote

12:10:37 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION: Appoint Legislators to National Conference of State Legislature, Council of State Legislatures, Pacific Northwest Economic Region, and Council of State Governments - Continued

12:10:44 Jerry Howe

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION: Review, Revise, and adopt Legislative Council Rules

Motion

12:11:10 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Motion

12:12:08 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers moved to adopt rules as proposed.

Vote

12:12:41 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIAL OFFICE REPORT SB64: Legislative Compensation Time and Travel

12:12:58 Angie Carter, Financial Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Council Questions / Discussion

12:13:32 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
12:14:33 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
12:16:58 Rep. Johnathan Karlen
12:18:00 Rep. Jennifer Lynch
12:18:37 Sen. Matt Regier
12:19:33 Sen. Sue Vinton
12:23:10 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

Motion

12:24:19 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers moved to approve opt out form as presented.

Vote

12:24:47 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIAL OFFICE REPORT: Acceptable Use: Constituent Services and Education Funds

12:25:48 Angie Carter, LSD
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Council Questions / Discussion

12:26:56 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
12:27:28 Sen. Matt Regier
12:28:07 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
12:29:02 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
12:29:44 Todd Everts, Legal Services Director, LSD

Motion

12:32:45 Sen. Matt Regier moved to make clear that travel expenses for legislators are in district expenses for a and b only.

Vote

12:33:13 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIAL OFFICE REPORT: Acceptable Use: Constituent Services and Education Funds - Continued

12:33:20 Angie Carter, LSD

Council Questions / Discussion

12:34:50 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
12:34:57 Sen. Matt Regier
12:38:14 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
12:39:39 Rep. Johnathan Karlen
12:40:39 Sen. Laura Smith
12:41:19 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

Motion

12:42:28 Sen. Matt Regier moved to authorize LSD to reimburse legislators up to \$2,000 for educational purposes with the understanding that the Council will revisit the issue in January 2026.

Vote

12:42:56 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIAL OFFICE REPORT: Reallocation of Duties

12:43:03 Angie Carter, LSD

LEGAL OFFICE REPORT: Litigation Update: Junque File Requests

12:45:34 Jaret Coles, Deputy Legal Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

LEGAL OFFICE REPORT: Codification Update

12:54:30 Todd Everts, Legal Services Director, LSD
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Motion

12:58:22 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers moved to adopt the numbers as presented by Chief Legal Counsel Todd Everts.

Vote

12:58:58 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

LEGAL OFFICE REPORT: Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act Implementation

12:59:00 Todd Everts, LSD

13:00:12 Jaret Coles, LSD

LEGAL OFFICE REPORT: Retirements / Attorney / Position Hiring

13:03:19 Todd Everts

RESEARCH OFFICE REPORT

13:05:12 Rachel Weiss, Legislative Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Council Questions / Discussion

13:13:08 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

13:13:18 Sen. Sue Vinton

13:14:25 Rachel Weiss, LSD

PUBLIC COMMENT

13:15:48 Kali Wicks, Grow Montana

[EXHIBIT 12](#)

13:17:08 John Metropoulos, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
(see Exhibit 11 for SJR 33)

13:18:29 Greg Van Horssen, Prime Therapeutics

RESEARCH OFFICE REPORT: Assign Study Resolutions to Interim Committees (Discussion)

13:19:46 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

13:20:10 Sen. Matt Regier

13:21:32 Rep. Katie Sullivan

13:22:25 Sen. Laura Smith

13:23:20 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

13:24:26 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

13:24:46 Rachel Weiss

Motion

13:31:31 Sen. Matt Regier moved to adopt the recommendation from the Research office with the following exemptions: HJ 2 is assigned to the Legislative Audit Committee and HJ 4 is assigned to Legislative Council.

Vote

13:32:34 Carried 11 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick voting 'no'.

Motion

13:33:15 Rep. Jodee Etchart moved to move the SJ 48 and SJ 29 studies to state tribal committee.

Council Questions / Discussion

13:34:11 Sen. Sue Vinton

13:34:26 Sen. Laura Smith

13:35:34 Rep. Jodee Etchart withdrew her motion.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM STUDIES: Review Legislature's Ethics Process and Procedure (SJ 28)

13:36:03 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Council Questions / Discussion

13:37:40 Rep. Katie Sullivan

13:13:47 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

13:38:57 Sen. Matt Regier

13:41:34 Sen. Laura Smith

13:43:04 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

13:44:40 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

13:45:10 Sen. Sue Vinton

13:46:48 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

13:47:30 Rachel Weiss, Legislative Research Director, LSD

13:51:04 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

13:53:48 Rep. Brandon Ler

13:54:31 Sen. Matt Regier

13:55:56 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, LSD

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM STUDIES: Procurement Process and Procedure

13:58:55 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Council Questions / Discussion

13:58:59 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

13:59:51 Sen. Sue Vinton

14:01:40 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Motion

14:01:59 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flower moved to adopt the proposed schedule for Legislative Council interim meeting dates.

Vote

14:02:26 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM STUDIES: Authorizing Interim Committee Memberships that exceed statutory limits

14:02:42 Jerry Howe, LSD

Council Questions / Discussion

14:03:14 Rep. Katie Sullivan

14:03:59 Sen. Sue Vinton

14:04:49 Todd Everts, Legal Services Director, LSD

14:05:08 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

14:05:57 Angie Carter, Financial Director, LSD

14:07:07 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

14:07:39 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

14:09:20 **Recessed**

14:40:01 **Reconvened**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM STUDIES: Authorizing Interim Committee Memberships that exceed statutory limits - Continued

14:40:01 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

14:40:30 Sen. Laura Smith

14:40:55 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

14:41:25 Rep. Jodee Etchart

14:41:44 Sen. Sue Vinton

14:42:18 Rep. Brandon Ler

14:42:57 Jerry Howe

14:44:07 Rep. Jodee Etchart

14:44:31 Rep. Katie Sullivan

Motion

14:45:10 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flower moved to adopt proposed Interim Committees list as is and accommodate the extra expense.

Discussion on the motion

14:45:46 Sen. Sue Vinton

Vote

14:46:21 Carried 11 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Jodee Etchart voting 'no'.

PUBLIC COMMENT

14:46:40 None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:47:27