

Compilation of 2025 Final PSOs in Order of Rank

SJ HJ	Rank	Points	Study Short Title
HJ 61	1	1902	Interim study on the property insurance market in Montana
HJ 42	2	1660	Interim study on procurement, no-bid contracts, and transparency on no-bid purchases
HJ 40	3	1653	Interim study on transferring fiscal note production from executive branch to legislative branch
SJ 12	4	1548	Interim study on energy transmission
SJ 21	5	1543	Interim study on interstate power grid development
SJ 28	6	1412	Interim study resolution on the legislature's ethics processes
HJ 62	7	1321	Study resolution on wildfire safety
HJ 23	8	1306	Interim study on youth court laws
HJ 44	9	1274	Interim study of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and water quality
HJ 53	10	1273	Request an interim study on school safety
HJ 26	11	1228	Study guardianships and conservatorships
HJ 30	12	1206	Study resolution on incentivizing housing density and affordability
HJ 04	13	1205	Interim study on artificial intelligence
HJ 28	14	1135	Interim study to identify and improve access to federal grant opportunities for the state of Montana, tribal governments, and local government entities
HJ 74	15	1131	Study resolution analyzing water re-use in the state
SJ 33	16	1035	Interim study of the prescription drug supply chain
HJ 48	17	1033	Interim study on moving the date of the primary election
SJ 42	18	937	Interim study of noxious weed control
SJ 35	19	936	Interim study of voter list maintenance and integrity
SJ 48	20	921	Interim study of the public health and safety impacts of marijuana legalization
SJ 11	21	903	Interim study on farmer's markets and food systems
SJ 13	22	880	Study resolution for emergency medical services
SJ 08	23	868	Request interim study of property tax special districts
HJ 47	24	863	Study resolution on local government entity cooperation
HJ 56	25	826	Study resolution of search and rescue services and funding
SJ 37	26	820	Interim survey of behavioral health services in Montana
SJ 19	27	789	Joint resolution to study public transportation
HJ 50	28	774	Interim study of uniform common interest ownership laws
SJ 29	29	763	Interim study resolution on coordinating efforts between OPI and DPHHS in addressing the impacts on children of prenatal exposure to meth and fentanyl
HJ 52	30	731	Interim study on Montana cattle industry

HJ 45	31	701	Interim study on the impact collateral consequences have on criminal record expungement
HJ 27	32	687	Interim study on laws regarding morticians and funeral services
HJ 32	33	666	Interim study of advanced investigator qualifications for law enforcement
HJ 55	34	660	Study resolution on property management licensing and practice
SJ 49	35	589	Interim study of youth and family behavioral health prevention
SJ 36	36	316	Study dependent neglect standards for prosecutors

Study: HJ 61 Interim study of property insurance market in Montana

Interim Study Poll Rank: 1

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 140-1440 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To evaluate the causes and impacts of increasing property insurance rates in Montana; recommend strategies that could stabilize the property insurance market and contribute to more accessible/affordable property insurance. Property insurance and reinsurance costs have increased housing and business costs, while coverage options have decreased, leaving many Montanans unable to afford loans, high mortgage rates, and/or insurance.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .50 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C .05 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Additional panel(s) / presentation(s) on request• Additional staff presentation and research based on topics generated during committee review• Stakeholder panel to discuss proposed legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Staff research paper and presentation summarizing panel discussion, providing in-depth review of property insurance issues affecting Montana, examples of legislation from other states, and legislative recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel Discussion involving State Auditor's Office, representatives of property insurance industry, and Board of Housing• Staff background paper on property insurance and recent trends in insurance costs in MT• Legislation on request

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Data could be visualized with a map, flow chart, chart/graph, etc.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

State Auditor's Office, Representatives of the property insurance industry, Board of Housing, and housing policy experts.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 42 Interim study on procurement, no-bid contracts, and transparency on no-bid purchases

Interim Study Poll Rank: 2

Staff Recommendation: Assign to State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 – 2880 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To review a sampling of procurement contracts from all state agencies from the past 4 years and determine which, if any, have deviated from the Montana Procurement Act.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 1.0 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B .50 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Evaluate all procurement contracts from 3 state agencies for past 4 years• Proposed legislation• Final report of committee's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Evaluate specific type of procurement contract from 2 state agencies for past 3 years• Staff paper/presentation on best practices in other states	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel of state procurement officials• Staff background paper/presentation on current state procurement laws and procedures• Evaluate specific type of procurement contract from 1 state agency for past 2 fiscal years• Briefing paper of committee's work

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Work products could include a flow chart to show the current procurement process, including when no-bid contracts and other departures from the standard process are used.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

State procurement officials, all state agencies, NCSL.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 40 Study transfer of fiscal note production from executive to legislative branch

Interim Study Poll Rank: 3

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Legislative Finance Committee

Workload projection: TBD by LFC staff

Estimated LSD staff time: 0 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

All bills that with an effect on revenues, expenditures or the fiscal liability of the state have to include a fiscal note when reported out of committee. Currently, the Governor's Office is responsible for coordinating with affected agencies and local governments to produce fiscal notes in a statutorily set timeframe. In several other states, the Legislative Branch is responsible for fiscal note production. There could be benefits and drawbacks to changing the responsible party, which the study should investigate.

Preliminary study approach: Assign to the Legislative Finance Committee. If the Council chooses to study this topic, Council staff will create a preliminary study approach for the fall Council meeting.

OPTION A FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• TBD by the Legislative Finance Committee staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• TBD by the Legislative Finance Committee staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD by the Legislative Finance Committee staff

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: Flowchart of the fiscal note process. Possible data analysis of fiscal note numbers and time to produce over several sessions if data is available.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Governor's Office, executive branch agencies if needed, Legislative Services staff as needed.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 12 Interim Study on Energy Transmission

Interim Study Poll Rank: 4

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Energy and Technology Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low- Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288-720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Montana's lack of access to low-cost power compared to neighboring states inhibits the ability to attract new businesses, and limits economic growth and development. This is due to limited transmission capacity. Montana's transmission pathways are congested, and electric utilities and cooperatives are struggling to meet customer demand.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Field trip to Colstrip, Montana to visit the proposed connection site of the North Plains Connector, a transmission line project which will connect the eastern and western grid (<i>currently entering the permitting phase</i>).• Legal or data modeling/analysis of identified areas.• Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation.• Additional staff paper(s)/presentation as requested by the committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion/roundtable with stakeholders listed below to identify issues and recommend solutions to observed transmission pathway congestion and lack of transmission infrastructure.• Staff background paper/presentation on Montana transmission pathways, regulatory framework, and the factors that attribute to pathway congestion and the current lack of transmission infrastructure.• Final report on committee activities, findings, and requested legislation.

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain: A reoccurring topic with the Energy and Technology Interim Committee, but no recent LSD-generated research products on energy transmission. DEQ's Understanding Energy, 2023, provides background and data on Montana's transmission pathways, and current transmission issues. SJ21 Interim Study on Energy Transmission, 2025 may produce similar work, and discussion. The committee could pursue to combine SJ21 and 12 into one study.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: DEQ's Energy Bureau provides mapping for Montana's electric transmission system and pathways.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Environmental Quality, Public Service Commission, and Department of Commerce, as needed; Electric Utilities and Cooperatives; Transmission Service Providers; Load Serving Entities; Consumer Advocacy Groups; and Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: The committee could pursue a field trip to Colstrip, Montana to visit the location of the proposed connection site of the North Plains Connector, a transmission line project.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 21 Interim Study on Interstate Power Grid Development

Interim Study Poll Rank: 5

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Energy and Technology Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288-720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Restrictive and anticompetitive policies in certain jurisdictions hinder the development of transmission projects, resulting in increased costs to ratepayers and inefficiencies in energy markets. The establishment of an interstate compact between neighboring states could reduce regulatory barriers and encourage open bidding processes for new transmission projects resulting in lower costs.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Roundtable with neighboring states to discuss potential interstate cooperative agreements.• Legal or data modeling/analysis of identified areas.• Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation.• Additional staff paper(s)/presentation as requested by the committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion/roundtable with stakeholders listed below to explore and identify best practices in implementing a cost-effective interstate cooperative agreement.• Staff background paper/presentation on legal and regulatory framework for Montana to participate in new cooperative interstate agreements and any existing interstate compacts operating within the United States.• Final report on committee activities, findings, and requested legislation.

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? X Yes No

If yes, explain: The Energy and Technology Interim committee has studied Regional Transmission Organizations and electricity markets in SJ33, 2022, which may relate to interstate

compact discussions. SJ12 Interim Study on Energy Transmission, 2025 may produce similar work, and discussion. The committee could pursue to combine SJ21 and 12 into one study.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, explain: DEQ's Energy Bureau provides mapping for Montana's electric transmission system and pathways. In addition, there many sources that provide Regional Transmission Organization/Independent System Operator area mapping.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Environmental Quality, Public Service Commission, and Department of Commerce, as needed; Electric Utilities and Cooperatives; Transmission Service Providers; Load Serving Entities; Consumer Advocacy Groups; and Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 28 Study of the legislature's ethics processes

Interim Study Poll Rank: 6

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Legislative Council

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 216 – 1,008 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

As required by the Montana Constitution, the legislature has adopted a code of ethics for its members that prohibits conflict between public duty and private interest. The Joint Rules also provide ethics rules for legislators. While the Commissioner of Political Practices has a role in enforcement of the code of ethics, the office does not have jurisdiction over complaints involving legislators if a legislative act is involved in the complaint. Both the Senate Ethics Committee and the full Senate considered ethical issues during the 2025 session, providing perspective and experience that could be valuable in a study.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .35 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.15 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C 0.75 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff comparison of ethics in other American, self-regulated/self-governing institutions (eg state bars, service academy student bodies)• Staff comparison of regional and national legislatures/parliaments in the nations with a shared common law heritage from the United Kingdom.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Presentation on ethics processes in other legislatures• Discussion with commissioner of political practices on areas of overlap or gaps in enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written overview by legal staff of current ethics laws• Discussion/review of Senate Ethics Committee process with members and staff• Council work session to discuss findings, recommendations, legislation, rule proposals, and committee assignments• Study summary

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain: _____

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: A flowchart of the ethics complaint, investigation, and adjudication processes;
map of states with similar ethics codes or ethics processes

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Commissioner of Political Practices, National Conference of State Legislatures staff, possibly
legislators or legislative staff from other states

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain: _____

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 62 Study resolution on wildfire safety

Interim Study Poll Rank: 7

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Environmental Quality Council

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 250 - 1000 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

HJ62 proposes a study of wildfire prevention and resilience, including:

- impacts and costs of wildfires on communities and in the wildland-urban interface;
- fire-focused land use planning, such as defensible space, buffers, and access;
- existing legal/policy framework
- solutions to alleviate risk, such as incentives and regulations.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.3 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B 0.1 FTE (LOW)
All of option B <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Field trip•Analysis of relevant laws, actions, policies, legal decision, and experiences of other states•Create subcommittee or work group of interested parties•Legal or data modeling/analysis of identified areas•Deliverables: report, recommendations, legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Review relevant laws, policies, and legal decisions•Panel discussion w/firefighters, planners, builders, homeowners,•Summarize related information in other states•Deliverables: brief report, legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: Topics covered in this study may also be covered in HB70 study (Study of wildland firefighting). Recent wildfire-related studies include:

- Fire Suppression Interim Committee (2007-08)
- LEPO report on prescribed burning (2018)

- Assessment of fire protection fees (2017-18)
- Wildland fire smoke and air quality (2021-22)
- Power company liability in the event of a wildfire (ETIC, 2024)

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes No

If yes, explain: Various, including statistics of past wildfire seasons, risk analysis heat maps (incl. of wildland-urban interface), depictions of land use planning

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Various, including public officials, landowners, builders, other industry

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): X Yes No

If yes, explain: Perhaps as part of field meetings as anticipated in HJ70 study?

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 23 - Interim study of youth court laws

Interim Study Poll Rank: 8

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Law and Justice Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low – Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 - 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To review and propose legislation to simplify and streamline the Montana Youth Court Act, with focus on procedural improvements.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff background paper(s) on current statutory scheme and legislative history of 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.

Recent study or research products on this topic? Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes No

If yes, explain: Work products could include a flow chart of the current youth court process from arrest to sentencing, a map of available treatment facilities and services for youth offenders, display of numbers/statistics of youth involved in the youth court system over a period of time

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Corrections, Office of State Public Defender, Office of Court Administrator, County Attorneys Association, district court judges, youth probation officers, and youth court services personnel

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): X Yes No

If yes, explain: The committee could choose to visit a youth detention facility in Miles City, Missoula, or Great Falls, or observe a youth court proceeding contingent on permission from the court.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 44 Study of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and water quality

Interim Study Poll Rank: 9

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Water Policy Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 - 2160 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Review the documented health risks associated with human consumption of endocrine-disrupting chemicals present in water and examine if the state is taking sufficient steps to protect citizens from those risks. Identify the sources and prevalence of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the state.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .75 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B .50 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Additional panel discussions, focused on multi-state and federal participation• Attempt to determine the prevalence of EDCs* in Montana (<i>staff note: legislative committees are unable to conduct scientific research, so will rely on research from other sources, if available</i>)• Deeper dive into methods to regulate or prevent EDCs• Analysis of costs to regulate or mitigate EDCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Analysis of state water quality laws and federal acts that protect water and may regulate EDCs• Review of other states' policies related to EDCs identification and regulation• Review methods to identify, measure, and test EDCs• Analyze research related to the health effects of EDCs• Potential legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion• Staff background paper/presentation• Update from DEQ on past work on topic

** For the purposes of this document, "EDC" refers to both endocrine-disrupting chemicals and perfluoroalkyl/polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which are a type of EDC.*

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ____ Yes X No

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: The health effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals may be illustrated using infographics and a timeline may show the path from the creation of a product that contains endocrine-disrupting chemicals to how the chemicals potentially enter the water ways and human consumption. Maps may illustrate the prevalence of identified PFAS in water ways nationwide. Tables and graphs may be used to compare other states' policies and procedures.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, municipalities, and other entities involved in water treatment.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: A field trip to a water treatment plant may help members gain understanding of the basic processes and limitations of treatment systems.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 53 Request an interim study on school safety

Interim Study Poll Rank: 10

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Education Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low – Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 200 – 600 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

HJ 52 focuses on examining the current adoption of “Ten Essential Actions to Improve School Safety” (recommended to the Attorney General of the United States by the School Safety Working Group of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in 2020) in Montana school districts and ways to increase and maximize the positive benefits of broader adoption and more coordinated efforts to improve school safety.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .20 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Stakeholder-conducted survey of current implementation of “Ten Essential Actions”• Staff or stakeholder review of best practices for implementing the “Ten Essential Actions” and improving cross-agency collaboration and coordination in supporting school safety; include examples from other states	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff background paper on existing statutes and funding mechanisms related to school safety and alignment with “Ten Essential Actions”• Presentation on “Ten Essential Actions” by Montana Safe School Center• Stakeholder panel on ways Montana might improve adoption of the “Ten Essential Actions” and school safety generally• 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.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Maps could help show where school safety efforts are more/less fully implemented across the state; a dashboard could be developed to show degree of adoption of the “Ten Essential Actions to Improve School Safety.”.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Listed in HJ 53: Montana Safe Schools Center; Office of Public Instruction; Montana Department of Justice; Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association; Board of Public Education; School Administrators of Montana; Montana School Boards Association; Department of Public Health and Human Services; Montana Professional Learning Collaborative; Montana Board of Crime Control; and Jeremy Bullock Memorial Trust.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 26 Study guardianships and conservatorships

Interim Study Poll Rank: 11

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 - 800 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To study issues related to guardianships and conservatorships in Montana, particularly how best to bolster training and ensure accountability for individuals appointed by courts to fill such roles.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .30 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .15 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff research and comparative analysis on guardianship/conservatorship laws and procedures in other states• Presentation from conservatorship audit program in Oregon and/or Minnesota• Additional staff research and paper(s) on topics requested by the committee• Additional panel(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request• Stakeholder roundtable on potential or proposed legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff research and report on types of conservatorships and guardianships, relevant Montana laws, and legislative history• Stakeholder panel on strengths and challenges of current laws, and current measures for training and accountability• Presentation or report from DPHHS, Adult Protective Services• Final report and legislation as requested by committee

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Flow chart of legal processes for establishing guardianships or conservatorships, graphic detailing different types and circumstances of guardianships vs. conservatorships.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Office of the Court Administrator, county attorneys, district court judges, individuals serving as guardians and/or conservators, family members of those needing assistance, organizations involved in supporting guardians and incapacitated individuals

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalentents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 30 Study resolution on incentivizing housing density and affordability

Interim Study Poll Rank: 12

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Local Government Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288-720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Determine what current state programs exist to incentivize increased housing density.

Analyze the potential economic impacts of increased housing density.

Identify federal opportunities for funding incentive programs.

Investigate new methods of incentivizing increased housing density.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Analysis of potential fiscal impacts from increased housing density and availability• Staff background paper/presentation on federal programs that provide funding for housing density incentives• Staff paper/presentation on incentive programs used by other states	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel(s) Discussion with MACO, Montana League of Cities and Towns, Home developers, Nonprofit(s), local representatives, and relevant agency staff• Staff background paper/presentation on the current housing market and state programs incentivizing and subsidizing housing• Staff paper/presentation reviewing previous research on housing density• Committee Legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? X Yes No

If yes, explain: “2023 Land Use Legislation: Easing the Housing Crisis” produced by the 2023-2024 Local Government Interim Committee followed the implementation of housing density legislation passed in the 2023 session.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Housing data visual aids.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Montana Association of Counties, Montana League of Cities and Towns, Homebuilders, Nonprofits, Appropriate Agency Staff.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 4 Interim study of artificial intelligence

Interim Study Poll Rank: 13

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Energy and Technology Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low to High

Estimated LSD staff time: 432 to 1,728 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

The goals of this study of artificial intelligence (AI) are to:

- review state and federal regulatory structures for AI and whether the measures may be effective in Montana;
- examine transparency and disclosure requirements and civil and criminal liability for entities that use AI systems;
- assess the benefits and risks of artificial intelligence to state agencies and to the rights and interests of Montana residents, including the impact on employment, constitutional and legal rights, privacy interests, and economic welfare; and
- research an artificial intelligence code of ethics to be used by state agencies and an artificial intelligence bill of rights applicable to citizens.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.60 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.45 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C 0.15 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Develop AI code of ethics for state agencies and bill of rights for citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• More detailed review of other state/federal AI regulatory structures• Identify benefits and risks of AI to state agencies and to the rights of citizens with attention to employment, legal rights, privacy, and economic welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Montana laws and regulations on transparency requirements and civil and criminal liability for entities that use AI• Panel on how state agencies currently use and regulate AI• Presentation from national expert on state/federal AI regulatory structures

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: The study could include a map classifying state regulatory structures and a visual analysis of how AI is used in Montana and other states.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

National Conference of State Legislatures and Council of State Governments may be useful for preliminary understanding of state/federal regulatory structures. The State Information Technology Services Division likely has information about state use of AI and can direct staff to agencies currently using AI.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 28 Interim study to identify and improve access to federal grant opportunities for state, tribal, and local governments

Interim Study Poll Rank: 14

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Local Government Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low – Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 250 - 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

HJ 28 claims that state agencies fail to identify and secure federal grant opportunities that could provide significant revenue opportunities, and that local governments and tribes lack the capacity to identify and pursue grant funding. The study seeks to identify available federal grant funding opportunities for the state, tribal and local governments since 2020, determine which have been utilized or utilized, evaluate why some are utilized and some are not, and seek to determine any disparities that may exist between small, tribal, and rural governments and larger, urban governments in relation to identifying and securing federal grants.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff interviews with local and tribal governments that examine challenges in securing grants, including access to information, grant writer and other staff availability, and any other factors.• Staff report comparing and contrasting any disparities between government entities based on above research.• Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation• Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff research and report on the most commonly used federal grant funds by state, tribal, and local governments since 2020.• Staff research and report or presentation on significant grants that are unused, including analysis of why.• Presentations on underutilized federal grants by state agency personnel, local government authorities, and tribal government representatives.• Final report on committee activities, findings, and requested legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ___ Yes ___X_ No

If yes, explain:

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

All state agencies that utilize or seek to utilize federal grant monies, all local governments that utilize or seek to utilize federal grant monies, tribal governments of the eight federally recognized tribes in Montana that utilize or seek to utilize federal grant monies.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ___ Yes ___X_ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 74 Study water re-use in the state

Interim Study Poll Rank: 15

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Water Policy Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 144 - 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

The resolution requests a review of existing statutes and rules related to water reuse and existing water reuse infrastructure while also examining methods used in other states and various industries that may benefit from water reuse systems.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Additional analysis of the efficacy of various water reuse systems• Comparison and analysis of systems used in other states, with a focus on what may work in Montana• Examination of potential roadblocks that may prevent implementation of water reuse• Determination of factors needed to implement a successful water reuse system and whether those factors are present in Montana.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion• Staff background paper/presentation on water reuse systems generally and what is currently allowed in Montana• Staff review of the levels of treatment required for different water uses and water users• Potential legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X * Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: Various graphics such as flowcharts, infographics, or other schematics may help illustrate the water reuse process. Maps may show where water reuse occurs and how the water reuse may relate to various aquifers. Graphs and charts may be used to compare the different types of systems used in various states.

**Option A allows sufficient time for visual aid development.*

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, various industry groups, and other groups interested in water retention and/or preservation.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): X Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: If a water reuse location is identified, a field trip may be appropriate to observe operations and functionality.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 33 Interim study of the prescription drug supply chain

Interim Study Poll Rank: 16

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 432 – 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Map the supply chain of prescription drugs in the state.

Examine access to and cost of prescription medication.

Analyze the impact of cost and access on patients and independent pharmacies, particularly rural ones.

Examine how other states' state-administered health plans have addressed prescription drug affordability and access.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .15 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Analysis of other states' state-administered health plans• Analysis of rural community drug affordability and access• Review of the current statutory framework the prescription drug supply chain operates within• Report/presentation from NCSL or other national organization about addressing prescription drug affordability and access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel with representatives from drug producers and wholesalers, and representatives from the health insurance industry• Panel with representatives from pharmacies and pharmacy benefit managers• Panel with Doctors and Patients• Staff background report/presentation on the supply chain in Montana• Legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ____ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes ____ No

If yes, explain: Flow chart(s) of the prescription drug supply chain in Montana and Map(s) of unserved/underserved/adequately served areas/towns/counties

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Pharmacy Representatives, Pharmacy Benefit Mangers, Drug Manufacture Representatives, Drug wholesaler Representatives, Health Insurance Representatives, Rural/Urban Patients, and Rural/Urban Doctors.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): X Yes ____ No

If yes, explain: Field trip to visit a Pharmacy to see how prescription drugs are received, prepared, and distributed to patients

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 48 Interim study on moving the date of the primary election

Interim Study Poll Rank: 17

Staff Recommendation: Assign to State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low – Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 – 1440 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To evaluate the existing dates, deadlines, and procedures, in consultation with stakeholders, that would need to be adjusted in order to change the date of the primary election.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .50 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Multiple panels of election officials from the Office of the Secretary of State and county election offices across the state• Paper/presentation from NCSL or other national entities about primary dates and election calendars• Staff paper/presentation with proposed changes to current deadlines and procedures for all elections needed to move the federal primary election date• Proposed legislation• Final report of committee's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff background paper/presentation on current election calendar• Panel of election officials from the Office of the Secretary of State and county election offices across the state• Stakeholder feedback/input• Staff paper/presentation with proposed changes to current deadlines and procedures needed to move the federal primary election date• Briefing paper of committee's work

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes No

If yes, explain: Work products could include a flowchart of all election-related deadlines and activities.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Office of the Secretary of State, Election Administrators and staff from all counties, concerned citizens, elected officials and candidates, NCSL

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 42 Interim Study of Noxious Weed Control

Interim Study Poll Rank: 18

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Environmental Quality Council

Workload projection: Low – High

Estimated LSD staff time: 200 – 700 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Noxious Weeds harm native plant communities and make the land unsuitable for many uses.

Powers and responsibilities of District Weed Boards (DWBs) and District Weed Coordinators (DWCs) in enforcing compliance are unclear.

MCA statutes regarding Noxious Weeds are spread across at least 8 different titles.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .3 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B .2 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C .1 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Analyze relevant laws, actions, policies, legal decisions, and experiences in other states, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Weed district ID and establishment○ DWBs and DWCs responsibilities and enforcement○ Statutory language, layout, and organization• Examine safety/liability protections for DWCs. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final report with committee's recommendations• Legislation to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Reorganize and consolidate Noxious Weeds statutes in MCA○ Add protections for DWCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Field trip to a Weed District• Examine responsibilities of DWBs and DWCs, identify areas of need.• Examine currently available noxious weed control methods in industry.• Identify any effects that updating statutory language could have on funding. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report of committee's findings.• Legislation to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Clarify responsibilities and enforcement for DWCs and DWBs.○ Provide framework for other methods of Noxious Weed Control to be added in future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel Discussion w/ stakeholders listed below.• Staff background paper/presentation on existing statutes on noxious weeds, including funding mechanisms, methods of weed control, and responsibilities of DWCs and DWBs. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief report of committee's activities.• Legislation to update definitions and archaic language only.

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ____ Yes x No

If yes, explain: Several agencies produce status reports, and there was a performance audit in 1997, but there have been no LSD-generated research products on Noxious Weeds.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? x Yes ____ No

If yes, explain:

- Flow chart of current Noxious Weeds process, from identification to control to enforcement
- Map of weed-infested areas, areas under maintenance, and remediated areas in Montana
- Map of weed districts in Montana, and overlap with Tribal lands
- Map of weed districts in other states or nationwide
- Chart/graph of herbicide levels in land/water over time
- Graph of noxious weed prevalence over time, including weeds added to or removed from the Dept of Ag's list

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Listed in SJ42:

- Weed District Coordinators and Weed District Board members
- Statutory groups including the Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council, the Invasive Species Council, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the State Parks and Recreation Board
- Commercial applicators
- MT Weed Control Association
- MSU-Bozeman extension service
- Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Representatives of each federally recognized tribal government in Montana

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): x Yes ____ No

If yes, explain: The committee may want to do a field trip to a weed district in Montana, or another prevalent noxious weed location, to see the effects of noxious weeds, control and application methods, etc.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 35 Interim study of voter list maintenance and integrity

Interim Study Poll Rank: 19

Staff Recommendation: Assign to State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low – Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 – 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To review current state practices for maintaining and updating voter lists, research practices in other states, and make recommendations for changes to state procedures.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Panel of other state entities that could become involved in voter list maintenance, including utility companies, courts, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Public Health and Human Services• Paper/presentation from NCSL or other national organization about best practices in other states• Proposed legislation• Final report of committee's work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel of state entities involved in voter list maintenance including election administrators, the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Motor Vehicle Division• Staff background paper/presentation on current state practices and best practices from other states• Stakeholder feedback/input• Briefing paper of committee's work

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Office of the Secretary of State, Election Administrators and staff from all counties, concerned citizens, utility companies, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Health and Human Services, NCSL

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 48 Interim study of the public health and safety impacts of marijuana legalization

Interim Study Poll Rank: 20

Staff Recommendation: Assign to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

Workload projection: Moderate - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 1440 – 2880 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Comprehensive review of the public health and safety impacts of marijuana legalization, including emergency room and urgent care trends, academic achievement and school environment, the criminal justice system, demand on substance use disorder treatment, prevalence of marijuana-associated mental health disorders, and gaps in current data.

Preliminary study approach:

This study exceeds the scope of usual interim studies.

OPTION A 1.0 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.5 FTE (MODERATE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six to eight initial stakeholder presentations or panels to review existing data and present anecdotal concerns (see potential additional cost #1, pg. 2) • Two follow-up stakeholder presentations on areas of particular concern or interest to the committee • Two staff presentations on data or other topics identified by committee (see potential additional cost #1, pg. 2) • Staff presentation reviewing the history of marijuana legalization in Montana • Staff-developed data visualizations • NCSL or staff report on public health and safety impacts of marijuana legalization in other states, including any responses to these issues • Committee evaluates information gathered (see potential additional cost #2, pg. 2) and provides recommendations • Committee drafts legislation 	<p>Moderate option only available if committee studies <u>one</u> aspect of the public health and safety impacts of marijuana legalization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three stakeholder presentations (see potential additional cost #1, pg. 2) to review existing data sets and surveys • One follow-up stakeholder presentation • One staff presentation • Committee evaluates information gathered (see potential additional cost #3, pg. 2) and provides recommendations • Committee drafts legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Note: Rigorous studies like SJ 48 fall outside the scope of a normal interim study, so there are no products that holistically examine the issues requested by this study. The Economic Affairs Interim Committee and the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee monitor the impacts of legalized marijuana in Montana. The Criminal Justice Oversight Council has also examined the relationship between substance use disorder and criminal justice involvement.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Maps, charts, and dashboards.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Schools, including educational staff, health staff, and student resource officers; law enforcement and criminal justice system stakeholders; behavioral health and substance use disorder professionals; emergency department and primary health care providers; public health officials; tribal nations, including tribal health; local government and community coalitions.

SJ 48 directs the committee to conduct the study without “industry or political influence.” The state Constitution provides for the right of participation (Article II, Section 8). Even if the committee does not solicit input from the marijuana industry or politically-affiliated organizations, stakeholders from these groups may offer verbal or written public comment on study activities. Committee members have the authority to pose questions to or otherwise engage with anyone who provides comment.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:

1. Attorney time to assess privacy concerns related to public release of school and health data.
2. Comparison of different data sets is a statistical challenge that requires a professional statistician, data scientist, or data analyst. Data professionals may not be able to create meaningful links between the information requested by this study, especially because sets must be de-identified. For example, school achievement and youth marijuana use data sets are separate, and it may not be possible to tell if a student with a high absenteeism rate and low grades uses marijuana.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days		LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days		LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days		MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days		MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days		HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days		HIGH

Study: SJ 11 Study on farmer's markets and food systems

Interim Study Poll Rank: 21

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 300-1,000 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Examination of farmer's markets and food systems in Montana to promote regional food system infrastructure and coordination (see below for specific approaches).

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.3 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B 0.1 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•All components of option B•Analysis of additional barriers to farmer's market growth, including infrastructure, market access, and regulations•Analysis of farmer's markets role in food security, nutrition, regional food system resilience, consumer protection, producer liability•Analysis of government, nonprofit, private collaboration to support farmer's markets•Analysis of strategies to integrate markets into rural/community development•Deliverables: report with recommendations, legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Panel discussion w/stakeholders, including representatives of small agriculture, farmer's markets, public health, economic development, food systems, tribal government, food security, national security, DPHHS, Agriculture Department, extension service.•Review of relevant laws, policies, legal decisions, including Montana Local Food Choice Act, cottage food laws•Summary of related information from other states•Deliverables: Legislation, brief report

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ____ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Possibilities may include maps, and data trends. The data trends, if available, may include sales, vendor numbers, and customer attendance. Data trends may be difficult to quantify in some aspects.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

As referred to in resolution: small agriculture, farmer's markets, public health, economic development, food systems, tribal government, food security, national security, DPHHS, Agriculture Department, and the extension service.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 13 Study resolution for emergency medical services

Interim Study Poll Rank: 22

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Children, Families, Health, Human Services Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 300 – 800 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Assess Emergency Medical Services (EMS) capabilities relative to current and projected future demands for the next 5 years. Identify areas of Montana with a lack of EMS and examine why they are lacking. Examine funding mechanisms for EMS providers. Determine additional resources needed for EMS in each county for the next 5 years. Consider recognizing EMS as an essential statewide service, and any implications of that recognition.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.3 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.2 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C 0.1 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Identification/analysis of underserved areas in the state, including barriers to adequate EMS service.• Data analysis/projection of current and potential funding mechanisms for EMS services.• In-depth legal analysis of EMS issues. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Report with recommendations• Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Field trip• Analysis of relevant laws, actions, policies, legal decisions, and experiences in other states.• Data analysis/projection of EMS needs over next 5 years. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report• Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion with EMS stakeholders.• Staff background paper/presentation on relevant laws, policies, and legal decisions.• Staff summary of EMS-related information in other states. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislation• Brief report

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? X Yes No

If yes, explain: _Several LSD publications ([2018 SJ 21](#)) ([2016 HJ 7](#)) ([2002 Model Act comparison](#)), an [EMS performance audit \(2008\)](#), and an [LFD report \(2002\)](#) on Emergency Fund usage.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, explain: Visual map of EMS service levels in all Montana counties (full service, underserved, unserved). Chart or Graph of EMS funding sources – could include potential sources not yet accessed. Table or Chart to compare MT EMS coverage/funding with those of other states.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Representatives from all 56 MT counties.

Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

EMS Advisory Committee.

State Trauma Care Committee (STCC).

Regional Trauma Committees (RTAC).

Department of Transportation (MDT).

Montana Emergency Medical Services Association (MEMSA).

Montana Ambulance Association.

Montana Medical Transport (MMT).

Hospitals or healthcare organizations to potentially include [Logan Health](#), [Bitterroot Health](#), etc.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, explain: The committee may choose to take a field trip to an EMS service hub, hospital, or other EMS-central location.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 8 Interim study of property tax special districts

Interim Study Poll Rank: 23

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Revenue Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low to High

Estimated LSD staff time: 144 - 1,728 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Special districts are units of local government that perform a single or limited number of functions. Property within a special district is subject to a tax or fee, depending on the type of district. Some special districts levy mills on a property's taxable value, while others levy a fee based on property characteristics.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 8 requests a study of special districts to:

- categorize the different types of special districts;
- understand how special district funding varies and whether special districts are subject to 15-10-420;
- improve available data about special districts, such as their purpose, geographic area, governing entity, funding mechanism, revenue, and spending;
- consider whether there should be limits on special districts; and
- review whether current reporting requirements for special districts are sufficient.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.6 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.40 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C .05 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Consider impacts of limits on special districts and how they would affect mill-based and non-mill-based special districts• Identify additional special district data of interest and develop collection methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Categorize special district types by financing mechanism and whether they are subject to maximum mill levy calculation in 15-10-420• Review existing data and reports to understand availability and format of special district information• Consider sufficiency of reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review existing materials and data on special districts• Panel with special district representatives• Presentation from Department of Administration on special district reporting

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? X Yes No

If yes, explain: “[Special Districts: Statutory Authority](#)” outlines the types of special districts and summarizes a [2007-2008 study](#) on special purpose districts. The study can update the document and add information about 15-10-420 and reporting requirements.

The Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) [Property Tax Data Tool](#) includes revenue collections for mill-based and non-mill based special districts. Mill-based district revenue is totaled at the city and county level. Non-mill-based district revenue is totaled only at the county level.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes No

If yes, explain: The study is unlikely to result in collection of additional data this interim. If the study reveals that additional data is available now or results in future additional data collections, it could likely be incorporated into LFD dashboards.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

The study is likely to involve:

- local governments and organizations that represent them (Montana Association of Counties and Montana League of Cities and Towns);
- Department of Revenue (collects special district revenue data); and
- Department of Administration (receives special district reports).

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 47 Study resolution on local government entity cooperation

Interim Study Poll Rank: 24

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Local Government Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 576 - 1728 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Issue(s) as listed in legislation:

Review current examples of, opportunities for, and the fiscal impact of local government entity cooperation.

Review the current statutory framework that allows for local entity cooperation.

Review other states statutory frameworks that have incentivized and produced enhanced local entity cooperation.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .60 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B .30 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C .20 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff summary/analysis of potential fiscal impacts for entities that cooperate• Analysis of efficacy of the existing process for collaboration and determine new processes if needed• Identify models of cooperation in other states to direct further study, if needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Staff background paper/presentation of neighboring states systems of local government cooperation• Staff background paper/presentation on potential areas of cooperation for local entities• Panel of local entity representatives to identify potential areas of cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel(s) of MACO, Montana League of Cities and Towns, MSU Local Government Center, and local government representatives• Staff background paper/presentation on current statutory provisions allowing entity cooperation• Staff background paper/presentation on current examples of entity cooperation• Committee Legislation

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ____ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes ____ No

If yes, explain: A map detailing districts that include cooperation between multiple government entities and charts detailing fiscal impact trends.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Montana Association of Counties and Montana League of Cities and Towns.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ____ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 56 Interim study of search and rescue services and funding

Interim Study Poll Rank: 25

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Law and Justice Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low – Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 200 - 600 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

HJ 56 claims that search and rescue operations in Montana often require resources that exceed the amounts available to law enforcement agencies at the state, county, and tribal levels. It further contends that Montana is a large state with a diffuse population, including remote and dangerous terrain, so search and rescue personnel face training and operational challenges. HJ 56 claims that multiple state agencies administer search and rescue reimbursement and grants, but it is not enough to meet costs, and the state funding excludes tribal entities. The study asks to examine these sources of funding and methods of reimbursement.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .20 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion with agencies responsible for funding and distribution of funds for search and rescue, including 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.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: A graphic showing the process for reimbursement of funding a search and rescue operation at the county and tribal level, from sending a request to receiving/not receiving funding from the state. A state map of local and tribal search and rescue program locations, coverage areas, and membership numbers (if available).

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Military Affairs Division of Disaster and Emergency Services; Department of Justice Motor Vehicle Division; Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; tribal governments of the eight federally recognized tribes in Montana.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 37 Interim survey of behavioral health services in Montana

Interim Study Poll Rank: 26

Staff Recommendation: Assign to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

Workload projection: Moderate - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 1152 – 2160 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Survey of the number and geographic distribution of behavioral health services in Montana, including crisis services and preventative or ongoing treatment services.

Preliminary study approach:

The primary use of staff time in this study is development of a service distribution map and dashboard of service availability and capacity. Option A grants staff more time to gather information and interface directly with providers to understand what menu of services they provide; Option B relies solely on readily available information.

OPTION A 0.75 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.4 FTE (MODERATE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff-developed map of service distribution in Montana and dashboard of service availability and capacity, with significant staff time devoted to information gathering (see potential additional costs, pg. 2)• Two stakeholder presentations or panels on increasing service availability and reducing barriers• NCSL or staff report on policy options to increase behavioral health service availability in other states• Committee report and legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff-developed map of service distribution in Montana using information readily available online• One stakeholder presentation or panel on increasing service availability or reducing barriers• Committee report and legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Note: The Legislature has not conducted this type of survey. The Behavioral Health System for Future Generations (BHSFG) Commission may address some issues identified in this study,

including service availability, through its examination of workforce development, community-based services, and funding sources.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Dashboard of service availability and capacity, map of service distribution in Montana by type of service.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

- Department of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Corrections, and local county/city/tribal health departments and law enforcement
- Providers who work in emergency rooms and emergency detention settings for short- and long-term crisis stabilization and in long-term, voluntary psychiatric treatment facilities
- Psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and other providers of ongoing mental health services

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:

An online survey may be required to gather the most information in a time-efficient way. This may require paid survey software.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 19 Joint Resolution to Study Public Transportation

Interim Study Poll Rank: 27

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Transportation Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 200 - 1500 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Investigate ways Montana can coordinate efforts to improve passenger transportation and public transit services in the state. Consider the establishment of a Passenger Transportation Commission. Review statutes that may need updating to allow for Autonomous Vehicles (AVs).

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.5 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C 0.1 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• In-depth legal analysis of study issues including AVs.• Explore the establishment of a Passenger Transportation Commission – including qualifications, purpose, responsibilities/function, and funding. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Report with recommendations• Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Legal analysis of relevant laws, actions, policies, legal decisions, and experiences in other states.• Field trip(s) to transportation hub(s) in MT• Compare to other states' usage of AVs as a method of passenger transport. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report of committee's findings• Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion with stakeholders in highway (car/bus), rail, air, boat and bike transportation.• Staff background paper/presentation on existing statutes and funding mechanisms related to passenger transit. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief report of committee's activities• Legislation

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ____ Yes __X__ No

If yes, explain: While there was a [snapshot published in 2019 related to Autonomous Vehicles](#), there have not been any LSD publications on public transportation or passenger transit.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Visual representation (MAP) of main transportation corridors in Montana.
Chart or graph comparing Montana public transportation funding with other states, broken down by mode of transport.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

**Please note this is not an exhaustive list of stakeholders.*

- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
- Motor Vehicle Division of the Department of Justice (MVD)
- Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at MSU-Bozeman
- MT cities with public transport such as Missoula (Mountain Line), Bozeman (Streamline)
- MT Association of Counties, MT League of Cities and Towns
- Aviation stakeholders including MT Pilots' Assn, MT Airport Mgmt Assn, Civil Air Patrol, MT Medical Transport (air ambulance)
- Rail stakeholders including BNSF, Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority
- Bike Walk Montana
- MT Chamber of Commerce, MT Economic Development Council
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)
- Big Sky 55+
- Rail freight users including MT Farmers Union, MT Farm Bureau Federation, MT Petroleum Assn, Treasure State Resources Assn
- Hospitals and assisted-care facilities throughout Montana

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Since the study looks directly at transportation corridors, transportation hubs, and modes of transportation, the committee may want to conduct one or more field trips to visit and examine these transportation "hot spots."

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 50 Study of common interest ownership laws

Interim Study Poll Rank: 28

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Local Government Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 144 - 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

The resolution requests a review of HB 619, also known as the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act, introduced in the 69th Legislature and to determine if the legislation adequately addresses issues related to Homeowners' Associations raised during past legislative sessions and interims.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .05 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Additional panel discussions with various stakeholder groups• Summary and analysis of changes HB 619 made to existing statutes and general common interest ownership organization processes• Further examination of various drafting methods to ensure smooth transition from repealed statutes to new law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel discussion• Staff summary and review of House Bill 619• Potential legislation

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? X Yes No

If yes, explain: During the last two interims, the LGIC investigated topics related to Homeowners' Associations (HOAs). The committee did not produce specific reports but heard multiple panels and received legal briefings and memos on topics such as covenants and contract law. The BETTR Section of the Montana Bar Association provided the 2023-24 LGIC with an overview of the Uniform Law Commission common interest ownership model legislation, as mentioned in the study resolution.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒* Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Visual aids may be used to illustrate the repealed statutes (Common Unit Ownership Act – Condominiums) and which provisions are redrafted into new sections, modified, or essentially removed from code. Timelines may help illustrate the applicability sections and how the new law would apply to various subdivisions or developments.

**Option A allows sufficient time for visual aid development.*

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Montana Bankers Association, Montana Land Title Association, Montana Association of Realtors, and other industry representatives.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 29 – Study coordinating efforts between OPI and DPHHS in addressing the impacts on children of prenatal exposure to meth and fentanyl

Interim Study Poll Rank: 29

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low – Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 200 – 600 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Examine how the Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Office of Public Instruction can best coordinate their efforts to address the health and learning needs of children who had prenatal exposure to methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .20 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Stakeholder panel on impacts and discussion of potential collaborative efforts to address impacts• Presentation from agencies in other states identified as having effective collaborative efforts in addressing health and educational impacts related to prenatal exposure to meth and fentanyl• Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint DPHHS and OPI presentation on statistics, trend data, and health and educational impacts related to prenatal exposure to meth and fentanyl, including any existing or potential collaboration between the agencies to address impacts• Staff background paper on collaborative actions taken in other states• 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.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes _X_ No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, explain: Maps and dashboards displaying data on prevalence and impacts by region/community.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Public Health and Human Services; the Office of Public Instruction; tribal governments; county and tribal health departments; early childhood care and education providers.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, explain: If assigned to STRC, would be valuable topic to include in visits with tribal governments.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 52 Interim study on Montana cattle industry

Interim Study Poll Rank: 30

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 – 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

HJ52 claims that the beef industry is a vital and longstanding cornerstone of Montana’s agricultural economy yet faces numerous challenges, such as fluctuating market prices, rising feed and input costs, trade barriers, and increased competition from foreign beef imports, that impact its marketability.

The study seeks to examine the profitability and marketability of the state's cattle industry, propose legislation to improve management, research, education, and promotion of state beef and beef products, and support the expansion of domestic and international markets for Montana cattle.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B 0.10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff analysis of similar state-level cattle assessments in North Dakota, Idaho, Washington, Utah, California, and Texas• Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of a state assessment based on stakeholder feedback and recommendations• Dept. of Livestock/stakeholder roundtable discussion of a quasi-state agency commodity board to administer and manage a state cattle assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff background paper/presentation on stakeholder research• Dept. of Ag presentation on assessment collection and refund distribution process, similar to wheat, barley, and pulse crops• Montana Beef Council presentation on existing resources that promote the Montana cattle industry• Panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion on the implementation of a state assessment on Montana cattle• 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.

Recent study or research products on this topic? X Yes No

If yes, explain: The 2023-2024 Economic Affairs Committee studied agriculture production in Montana

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes No

If yes, explain: A flowchart detailing the process of assessment, collection, and distribution process conducted by current state commodity boards.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

State cattle producers, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, the Montana Cattlemen's Association, the Montana Association of Livestock Auction Markets, the Montana Cattlewomen, the Montana Beef Council, the Intertribal Agriculture Council, the Montana Meat Processors Association, the Montana Cattle Feeders Association, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, the Montana Farmers Union, and other organizations that have an interest in the production or marketing of Montana cattle and cattle products.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: House Joint Resolution 45 Interim study on the impact collateral consequences have on criminal record expungement

Interim Study Poll Rank: 31

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Criminal Justice Oversight Council

Workload projection: Low to High

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 - 2150 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

HJ 45 claims that people with criminal histories contend with legal barriers when seeking record expungement but also discrimination in the workplace and housing markets based on stigmas. The study seeks to determine the collateral consequences of criminal convictions and propose legislation to improve criminal record expungement laws, with a focus on improving the collateral consequences those with expunged criminal records face.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.75 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.50 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION C 0.10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion on employment, wage, and/or housing issues of individuals with expunged criminal records• Staff analysis of other states' forensic peer support services and models of peer support integration in reentry programs• Attempt by staff to gather research and analyze data on the impact of expungement on housing, employment, and social reintegration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option C• Staff summary/analysis of strengths and challenges of current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback• Staff comparative analysis on criminal record expungement laws in surrounding states• DOC and/or DOJ review of felony recidivism rates and reentry success for individuals with expunged criminal records.• Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff background paper(s) on the current statutory scheme and legislative history of the Misdemeanor Expungement Clarification Act.• DOJ presentation of criminal record expungement process.• Panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of collateral consequences associated with criminal record expungement.• Final report of committee's activities, findings, recommendations, and drafting of any committee-requested legislation.

Option D: The committee may determine not to allocate any time to this study.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: A flow chart of the state's current criminal record expungement process. And, if the committee chooses a multi-state comparison model, a chart or graph breaking down the comparison.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Listed in HJ 45: Department of Justice, Office of the State Public Defender, Department of Corrections, county prosecutors, and victim advocates.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 27 Interim study of morticians and funeral services

Interim Study Poll Rank: 32

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 144 - 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To review legislation and rules related to mortician licensing and funeral services procedures, including currently unregulated practices of final disposition technologies, such as natural organic reduction and alkaline hydrolysis; and propose legislation to update terminology and build frameworks for new final disposition methods. Existing statutes are not consolidated in one MCA Title, and do not address natural organic reduction or alkaline hydrolysis (among others).

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .05 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff research paper and presentation providing summary of panel discussion, in-depth review of MT statutes and industry procedures, examples of legislation from other states, and legislative recommendations• Field trip to in-state facility to observe practices and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel Discussion involving MT morticians, DLI reps, public health experts, and industry reps• Staff background paper on current licensing requirements, mortuary practices, and various final disposition methods• Legislation on request

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ____ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes No

If yes, explain: Flow charts and diagrams could be used to visualize processes; graphs could be used to visualize data such as costs and percentages.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Mortuary science professionals, Crematory process professionals, Representatives from each Montana tribal government, Representatives from the Board of Funeral Services, Representatives of the Montana Funeral Directors Association, City or county public health experts, Experts in other final disposition methods.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): X Yes No

If yes, explain: The committee may have opportunity to visit mortuaries to observe different processes and procedures.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: House Joint Resolution 32 Interim study of advanced investigator qualifications for law enforcement

Interim Study Poll Rank: 33

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Law and Justice Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low to Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288 - 1440 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

HJ 32 claims that investigations of serious crimes, such as sexual assaults and homicides, demand an advanced level of training than basic POST certification provides. A higher level of training and skill would increase the probability of successful resolutions of these cases. The study seeks to review training opportunities related to investigating serious crimes and propose legislation to improve the qualifications for investigators of serious crimes.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A 0.50 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B 0.15 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• 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 current statutory organization based on stakeholder feedback• Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: If the committee pursues a survey of Montana law enforcement agencies, data received could be displayed on a map.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, Montana Highway Patrol, Montana Law Enforcement Academy, Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association, Montana law enforcement agencies

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): X Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: The committee could consider touring the Montana Law Enforcement Academy in Helena.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: HJ 55 Interim study of property management licensing and practices

Interim Study Poll Rank: 34

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 144 - 720 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To review current property manager licensing requirements; professional practice conformance with Montana Residential Landlord and Tenant Act, and commercial rental contract law; end-user costs associated with unregulated property management services costs; the impact of unlicensed and unregulated foreign corporation and investment groups on rental quality; and to identify potential legislation based on best practices from other states.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .25 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .05 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff research paper and presentation providing summary of panel discussion, in-depth review of MT statutes and industry procedures, examples of legislation from other states, and legislative recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel Discussion involving representatives for property managers, tenant unions, and housing policy experts• Staff background paper on current licensing requirements, key aspects of Landlord-Tenant Act, and some examples of other states' laws• Legislation on request

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ___ Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes ___ No

If yes, explain: Map could be used to differentiate other states' practices; graphs and charts could be used to visualize percentages and costs.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Including but not limited to property managers, landlords, tenants, tenant unions, experts in landlord-tenant law and relations, and housing policy experts.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 49 Interim study of youth and family behavioral health prevention

Interim Study Poll Rank: 35

Staff Recommendation: Assign to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

Workload projection: Moderate - High

Estimated LSD staff time: 1440 – 2880 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

Comprehensive review of Montana’s behavioral health primary prevention programs for youth and families, including availability, funding streams, trends over time, and type or location of delivery (e.g., school-based, faith-based, community-based).

Preliminary study approach:

This study exceeds the usual scope of interim studies.

OPTION A 1.0 FTE (HIGH)	OPTION B 0.5 FTE (MODERATE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six to eight stakeholder presentations or panels (see potential additional cost #1, pg. 2), to review existing data sets and surveys• Two presentations (provider panel and staff presentation) on primary prevention practices• Develop and deploy a comprehensive statewide survey to inventory primary prevention programs, their services, and other information (see potential additional cost #2, pg. 2)• Staff report on funding streams (federal, state, local, and private) and the use of these funds• Staff-developed prevention workforce map; the accuracy of the map hinges upon readily available data and data sharing from organizations• NCSL or staff report on youth and family behavioral health prevention infrastructures in other states• Committee evaluates information gathered (see potential additional cost #3, pg. 2) and provides recommendations; staff translates into written report.	<p>Moderate option only available if committee studies <u>one</u> aspect of youth and family behavioral health prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three stakeholder presentations (see potential additional cost #1, pg. 2) to review existing data sets and surveys• One provider panel on primary prevention practices• NCSL report on youth and family behavioral health prevention infrastructures in other states.• Committee evaluates information gathered (see potential additional cost #3, pg. 2) and provides recommendations; staff translates into written report.

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Note: Rigorous studies like SJ 49 are unusual for the legislature; therefore, there are no comparable work products from the Legislative Services Division or past interim committees. However, several issues listed within the study overlap with key initiatives of the Behavioral Health System for Future Generations (BHSFG) Commission: workforce development, funding, service gap identification, and services for youth and families (including school-based, faith-based, and community-based services).

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain: Workforce map, prevention programs map, and data visualization of data sets and trends over time.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Office of Public Instruction, the Montana University System, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, faith-based institutions.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain:

1. Depending on the level or nature of collaboration with stakeholders and the policies of stakeholders, the legislature may need to contract with them for their services.
2. The statewide inventory of primary prevention programs likely requires paid survey software. It may also require additional staff, either within the branch (but outside of LSD) or contracted, to ensure use of appropriate statistical techniques to collect valid, reliable data for the committee's use in its evaluation and recommendations. Paid advertising may be necessary to collect a sufficient number of responses.
3. The study requires comparison and evaluation of multiple data sets, including the study's proprietary inventory of primary prevention programs and information collected by stakeholders, so the committee may identify trends and make recommendations. Comparison of different data sets is a statistical challenge that may require a professional statistician, data scientist, or data analyst.

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

.05 FTE	144 Hours	18 days	LOW
.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH

Study: SJ 36 Study dependent neglect standards for prosecutors

Interim Study Poll Rank: 36

Staff Recommendation: Assign to Criminal Justice Oversight Council

Workload projection: Low - Moderate

Estimated LSD staff time: 288-900 hours

Preliminary Analysis

Summary of study directives:

To evaluate methods of standardizing prosecution of dependent neglect (DN) matters to improve outcomes for children and families, with specific consideration given to possible expansion of the Department of Justice's Child Protection Unit to handle all cases statewide.

Preliminary study approach:

OPTION A .30 FTE (MODERATE)	OPTION B .10 FTE (LOW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of option B• Staff research or stakeholder presentation on best legal practices in child welfare matters, including efforts in other states and how they are funded• Panel involving county attorneys from judicial districts of varying sizes• Fiscal analysis of potential costs associated with the state assuming prosecution responsibility of DN matters, discussion of possible funding sources• Additional staff paper(s)/presentation(s) at the committee's request• Additional panel(s) or stakeholder roundtable discussion of potential/proposed legislation, if any	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff background paper/presentation on current statutory scheme related to dependent neglect matters• Presentation from Office of State Public Defender on MT Standards of Practice for Attorneys Representing Parents and Children in Dependent Neglect Cases and Department of Justice on Child Protection Unit and capacity for expansion• Stakeholder panel on how Montana might improve and standardize prosecution of DN matters in the state• Final report with recommendations and draft legislation at the committee's request

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

Recent study or research products on this topic? X Yes No

If yes, explain: _A task force met during the 2023-2024 interim to discuss matters of streamlining the dependent neglect system, and the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee formed a subcommittee to study child protection issues.

Additional considerations

Data/visual analysis opportunities? X Yes No

If yes, explain: Flow chart of the dependent neglect legal process.

Agency/stakeholder involvement:

*(None listed in legislation)*_County Attorneys Association, Office of the Court Administrator, Office of State Public Defender, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, district court judges, child welfare advocates.

Potential additional costs (field trips, out-of-town meetings): Yes X No

If yes, explain:

Interim FTE Equivalents

1 Interim FTE = 16.5 months = 2880 hrs.

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.10 FTE	288 Hours	36 days	LOW
.25 FTE	720 Hours	90 days	MODERATE
.50 FTE	1440 hours	180 days	MODERATE
.75 FTE	2160 hours	270 days	HIGH
1 FTE	2880 hours	360 days	HIGH