



REVENUE INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Becky Beard
Dave Fern
Greg Hertz
Mike Yakawich

HOUSE MEMBERS

Larry Brewster
Ed Byrne
Valerie Moore
James Reavis
Jolanda Songer
Mark Thane

COMMITTEE STAFF

Jaret Coles – Legal Staff
Megan Moore – Lead Staff
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

September 08, 2025
Capitol Room 137 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Larry Brewster, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Dave Fern, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Ed Byrne (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Rep. Valerie Moore (R)
Rep. James Reavis (D)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)
Sen. Mike Yakawich (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jaret Coles, Legal Staff
Megan Moore, Lead Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:31:48 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

REVENUE ESTIMATING AND MONITORING

08:32:24 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

08:32:40 Megan Moore, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

08:33:01 Amy Carlson, Director, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

08:37:55 Sam Schaefer, Lead Revenue Analyst, LFD

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

08:44:20 Josh Poulette, Senior Fiscal Analyst, LFD
(See Exhibit 1)

Committee Questions and Discussion

08:58:46 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern

08:59:02 Josh Poulette, LFD

09:00:47 Sen. Greg Hertz

09:00:59 Sam Schaefer, LFD

09:01:15 Sen. Mike Yakawich

09:01:49 Josh Poulette

09:02:24 Rep. James Reavis

09:03:00 Dir. Amy Carlson, LFD

REVENUE ESTIMATING AND MONITORING - Continued Fiscal Year-End Report

09:03:27 Sam Schaefer

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

09:04:24 Rep. James Reavis

09:04:45 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

09:05:08 Sam Schaefer

(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Questions and Discussion

09:13:14 Rep. Mark Thane

09:14:09 Sam Schaefer

09:16:24 Sen. Becky Beard

09:16:39 Sam Schaefer

09:18:00 Rep. James Reavis

(See Exhibit 2)

09:18:29 Sam Schaefer
09:18:46 Rep. Mark Thane
09:18:57 Sam Schaefer

REVENUE ESTIMATING AND MONITORING - Continued
Fiscal Year-End Report

09:19:09 Sam Schaefer
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Questions and Discussion

09:33:39 Sen. Becky Beard
09:33:56 Sam Schaefer
(See Exhibit 2)

REVENUE ESTIMATING AND MONITORING - Continued
Fiscal Year-End Report

09:34:31 Sam Schaefer
(See Exhibit 2)

Public Comment

09:38:58 Heather O'Loughlin, Executive Director, Montana Budget and Policy Center
(MBPC)

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TRUST

09:40:52 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TRUST - Continued
Overview of Growth and Opportunity Trust

09:41:02 Josh Poulette, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TRUST - Continued
Volatile Revenue

09:50:34 Sam Schaefer, Lead Revenue Analyst, LFD
(See Exhibit 3)

Committee Questions and Discussion

09:57:13 Sen. Becky Beard
(See Exhibit 3)
09:57:23 Sam Schaefer, LFD

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY TRUST - Continued
Property Tax Assistance Account

09:58:07 Megan Moore, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Committee Questions and Discussion

10:03:18 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
10:03:48 Megan Moore, LSD

Public Comment

10:04:42 None

TAX CREDIT REVIEW: UNLOCKING PUBLIC LANDS

10:04:55 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

TAX CREDIT REVIEW: UNLOCKING PUBLIC LANDS - Continued**Overview of Credit**

10:05:07 Megan Moore, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

10:16:16 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

TAX CREDIT REVIEW: UNLOCKING PUBLIC LANDS - Continued**Unlocking Public Lands Focused Evaluation**

10:17:16 Alyssa Sorenson, Management and Program Analyst Manager, Legislative Audit Division (LAD)

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Public Comment

10:26:38 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

10:26:58 Jeff Hindoen, Deputy Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

10:27:36 Allen Lloyd, Executive Director, Montana Society of CPAs

10:29:03 Kevin Nelson, Billings

10:30:18 Tom Jacobson, Former Senator, SD 11

Committee Questions and Discussion

10:34:05 Sen. Greg Hertz

10:34:24 Megan Moore, LSD

10:34:37 Sen. Greg Hertz

10:34:43 Jason Kool, Hunting Access Program Manager, FWP

10:36:09 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern

10:36:30 Jason Kool, FWP

TAX CREDIT REVIEW: UNLOCKING PUBLIC LANDS - Continued**Requests for Additional Information or Discussion of Recommendations**

10:37:25 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern

10:38:05 Sen. Greg Hertz

10:38:41 Sen. Becky Beard

10:38:58 Megan Moore

10:39:25 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

10:39:49 Sen. Mike Yakawich

10:40:49 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

10:41:14 Megan Moore

10:41:38 Sen. Becky Beard
10:41:52 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

10:42:03 **Recessed**
10:55:46 **Reconvened**

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION STUDY

Classification System Overview and History

10:55:52 Megan Moore, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:14:30 Sen. Mike Yakawich
11:15:04 Megan Moore, LSD
11:16:06 Sen. Becky Beard
11:16:48 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
11:17:54 Sen. Greg Hertz

UPDATE ON K-12 EQUALIZATION MILLS

11:19:08 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

UPDATE ON K-12 EQUALIZATION MILLS - Continued

Impact of House Bill 483

11:19:28 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff of the School Funding Interim Commission,
Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
11:19:40 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:25:34 Rep. James Reavis
11:25:46 Julia Pattin, LFD

UPDATE ON K-12 EQUALIZATION MILLS - Continued

Impact of House Bill 483

11:27:08 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 10)

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:30:55 Sen. Becky Beard
11:31:07 Pad McCracken

UPDATE ON K-12 EQUALIZATION MILLS - Continued
Impact of House Bill 483

11:31:46 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 10)
11:34:09 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 10)

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:40:46 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
(See Exhibit 10)
11:41:23 Pad McCracken
11:43:12 Sen. Greg Hertz
11:43:52 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 10)

UPDATE ON K-12 EQUALIZATION MILLS - Continued
Impact of House Bill 483

11:44:15 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 10)
11:45:29 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 10)

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:51:12 Rep. Mark Thane
11:51:54 Pad McCracken
11:52:05 Sen. Greg Hertz
11:52:36 Pad McCracken
11:53:25 Julia Pattin

UPDATE ON K-12 EQUALIZATION MILLS - Continued
Impact of House Bill 156

11:54:14 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 10)
11:56:32 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 10)

Committee Questions and Discussion

11:56:38 Rep. James Reavis
11:57:14 Julia Pattin
11:58:02 Pad McCracken
11:59:00 Sen. Greg Hertz
11:59:35 Pad McCracken
11:59:58 Julia Pattin
12:00:22 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
12:00:55 Julia Pattin

UPDATE ON K-12 EQUALIZATION MILLS - Continued

Impact of House Bill 156

12:02:02 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 10)
12:06:07 Pad McCracken

Public Comment

12:06:40 Kevin Nelson, Billings
[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Committee Questions and Discussion

12:10:36 Sen. Greg Hertz

12:11:31 **Recessed**

13:02:47 **Reconvened**

AGENCY MONITORING: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

13:03:01 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
13:03:24 Scott Mendenhall, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue (DOR)

AGENCY MONITORING: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE - Continued

Reappraisal Update

13:06:54 Paula Gilbert, Division Administrator, Property Assessment Division, DOR
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:18:37 Sen. Greg Hertz
13:19:12 Paula Gilbert, DOR

AGENCY MONITORING: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE - Continued

Senate Bill 542 / House Bill 231 Implementation

13:20:01 Bryce Kaatz, Bureau Chief, Property Assessment Division, DOR

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:24:29 Rep. Ed Byrne
13:24:48 Bryce Kaatz, DOR

AGENCY MONITORING: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE - Continued

Rebates

13:25:49 Derek Bell, Division Administrator, Business and Income Tax Division, DOR

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:31:12 Sen. Becky Beard
13:31:36 Derek Bell, DOR
13:32:41 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
13:32:59 Derek Bell

13:35:57 Bryce Kaatz
13:37:41 Rep. Mark Thane
13:38:30 Derek Bell

AGENCY MONITORING: DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE - Continued

Major Case Update

13:40:22 David Stewart, Chief Legal Counsel, Legal Services Office, DOR
[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Public Comment

13:42:58 Kevin Nelson, Billings
[EXHIBIT 14](#)
13:45:04 Jennifer Olson, Director of Government Affairs, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
13:47:12 Jason Rittal, Deputy Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Committee Questions and Discussion

13:48:55 Sen. Becky Beard
13:49:57 Sen. Greg Hertz
13:51:23 Jennifer Olson, MLCT

13:51:34 Sen. Greg Hertz
13:51:48 Jason Rittal, MACo

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8: SPECIAL DISTRICT STUDY

13:52:40 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8: SPECIAL DISTRICT STUDY - Continued

Overview of Special Districts

13:52:41 Megan Moore, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 15](#)
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8: SPECIAL DISTRICT STUDY - Continued

Review Existing Special District Data

14:00:44 Kurt Swimley, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
(See Exhibit 9)

Committee Questions and Discussion

14:07:53 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
14:09:01 Kurt Swimley, LFD
14:11:28 Megan Moore, LSD
14:12:08 Sen. Mike Yakawich
14:12:50 Kurt Swimley
14:13:31 Sen. Becky Beard
14:14:14 Jason Rittal, Deputy Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
14:15:50 Sen. Greg Hertz

14:16:03 Megan Moore
14:16:39 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:17:01 Jason Rittal, MACo
14:17:25 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
14:17:36 Jason Rittal
14:17:44 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
14:18:31 Megan Moore

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8: SPECIAL DISTRICT STUDY - Continued
Discussion of Desired Data

14:20:32 Megan Moore
14:20:50 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:22:36 Rep. James Reavis
14:23:21 Rep. Ed Byrne
14:24:09 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
14:24:24 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:24:57 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
14:25:27 Rep. Mark Thane
14:26:29 Megan Moore
14:28:22 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
14:29:47 Megan Moore
14:30:14 Rep. James Reavis
14:31:36 Sen. Becky Beard
14:32:11 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

Public Comment

14:32:34 Kevin Nelson, Billings
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
14:36:28 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
14:37:01 Jason Rittal, MACo
14:38:41 Amy Carlson, Director, LFD

VOTED LEVIES

14:39:59 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

VOTED LEVIES - Continued

Overview of Voted Levies and Data Availability

14:40:11 Megan Moore, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
14:40:49 Sen. Becky Beard

VOTED LEVIES - Continued**Discussion of Desired Data**

14:41:48 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:41:52 Megan Moore, LSD
14:43:02 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
14:43:20 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:45:27 Megan Moore
14:45:50 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
14:46:37 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:48:01 Sen. Becky Beard
14:49:26 Megan Moore
14:50:19 Rep. Mark Thane
14:51:17 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:51:34 Megan Moore
14:52:36 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
14:53:07 Sen. Becky Beard
14:53:31 Megan Moore
14:53:47 Sen. Mike Yakawich
14:54:44 Sen. Greg Hertz
14:58:02 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern

Public Comment

14:59:27 None

AGENCY MONITORING: ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW**Administrative Rule Report**

14:59:44 Jaret Coles, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)

Public Comment

15:01:47 None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY OTHER TOPIC WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

15:02:11 Kevin Nelson, Billings
[EXHIBIT 20](#)
15:04:41 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
15:04:51 Heather O'Loughlin, Executive Director, Montana Budget and Policy Center
[EXHIBIT 21](#)

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

15:08:30 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION - Continued**Review Revised Work Plan and Decision Matrix**

15:08:31 Megan Moore, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 22](#)

15:11:49 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
15:12:01 Megan Moore, LSD
[EXHIBIT 23](#)

Committee Questions and Discussion

15:12:49 Sen. Greg Hertz
15:13:06 Megan Moore
15:13:19 Rep. Ed Byrne
15:14:08 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
15:14:14 Megan Moore
15:14:48 Sen. Becky Beard
15:15:11 Megan Moore
15:15:26 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
15:15:35 Rep. James Reavis
15:16:24 Sen. Mike Yakawich

Motion

15:16:54 Sen. Mike Yakawich moved to allocate time to look into the sales tax model (option A).

Discussion on the Motion

15:16:55 Rep. Mark Thane
15:17:02 Megan Moore
15:17:27 Sen. Mike Yakawich
15:17:45 Vice Presiding Officer Dave Fern
15:19:11 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster
15:20:40 Rep. Ed Byrne
15:20:59 Megan Moore

Vote

15:21:12 Carried 5 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Larry Brewster, Rep. James Reavis, Rep. Mark Thane, and Sen. Becky Beard voting no.

Motion

15:22:09 Rep. Mark Thane moved to adopt the work plan as amended.

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION - Continued

Adopt Meeting Dates

15:22:31 Megan Moore
15:22:47 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

Vote

15:23:23 The motion carried without objection.

Discussion on the Vote

15:23:33 Sen. Greg Hertz

15:24:02 Megan Moore

Motion

15:24:44 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster moved to accept the proposed dates on page 8 in the Work Plan.
(See Exhibit 22)

Vote

15:25:20 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION - Continued**November 12-13 Meeting Preview**

15:25:29 Megan Moore
(See Exhibit 22)

15:27:23 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

Committee Questions and Discussion

15:27:56 Sen. Greg Hertz

15:28:06 Megan Moore

15:28:56 Presiding Officer Larry Brewster

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:32:09