



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Matt Regier
Laura Smith

HOUSE MEMBERS

Steve Fitzpatrick
Jennifer Lynch

COMMITTEE STAFF

Todd Everts, LSD- Legal Services Director
Leah Hibbs - Secretary
Jerry Howe - Executive Director
Daniel Rosenberg - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

January 27, 2026
Capitol Room 102 and Zoom
Helena, Montana

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

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Sen. Matt Regier (R)
Sen. Laura Smith, Vice Presiding Officer (D)

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Everts, Legal Services
Director
Leah Hibbs, Secretary
Jerry Howe, Executive Director
Daniel Rosenberg, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:04:17 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

REVIEW STAFF and SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER POTENTIAL RULE CHANGES

09:05:03 Todd Everts, Legal Director, Legislative Services (LSD)

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

[Exhibit 3](#)

09:23:01 Sen. Matt Regier

09:23:33 Todd Everts, LSD

REVIEW STAFF and SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER POTENTIAL RULE CHANGES

09:40:51 Sen. Matt Regier

09:41:07 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick

09:41:36 Todd Everts, LSD

09:43:53 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick

09:44:19 Todd Everts, LSD

REVIEW STAFF and SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER POTENTIAL RULE CHANGES-Continued

09:52:25 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith

09:52:59 Todd Everts, LSD

10:01:45 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick

10:02:09 Sen. Matt Regier

10:02:42 Todd Everts, LSD

COMMITTEE Discussion / Questions

10:04:46 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith

10:04:59 Todd Everts, LSD

10:06:18 Carolyn Tschida, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives

10:07:23 Sen. Matt Regier

10:08:05 Marissa Stockton, Secretary of Senate, Senate

10:08:37 Sen. Matt Regier

10:08:49 Todd Everts, LSD

REVIEW STAFF and SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER POTENTIAL RULE CHANGES-Continued

10:11:56 Sen. Matt Regier

10:13:52 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick

10:14:06 Todd Everts, LSD

10:14:27 Marissa Stockton, Senate

10:14:49 Todd Everts, LSD

[Exhibit 4](#)

10:16:49 Marissa Stockton, Senate

10:17:33 Todd Everts, LSD
10:17:43 Marissa Stockton, Senate
10:18:18 Todd Everts, LSD
10:23:03 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
10:23:38 Todd Everts, LSD
10:24:37 Sen. Matt Regier
10:24:58 Todd Everts, LSD
10:26:13 Marissa Stockton, Senate
10:26:25 Todd Everts, LSD
10:30:26 Carolyn Tschida, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
10:31:03 Todd Everts, LSD
10:31:41 Carolyn Tschida, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
10:32:08 [Exhibit 5](#)
10:33:14 Todd Everts, LSD
10:34:11 Carolyn Tschida, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
10:35:10 Todd Everts, LSD
10:35:52 Vice Presiding Officer Laura Smith
10:36:12 Rep. Jennifer Lynch
10:43:52 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
10:45:34 Sen. Matt Regier
10:45:53 Carolyn Tschida, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
10:47:55 **Recessed**
11:00:44 **Reconvened**

ETHIC RULE OPTIONS

11:01:05 Joe Carroll Legislative Attorney, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[Exhibit 6](#)
11:07:13 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:07:40 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:08:21 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:08:34 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:08:45 Todd Everts, LSD
11:09:33 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith
11:10:35 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:12:27 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith

ETHIC RULE OPTIONS-Continued

[Exhibit 7](#) -Joe Carroll, LSD
11:24:30 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:24:40 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:25:49 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith

11:26:20 Joe Carroll, LSD

Committee questions/Discussions

11:33:25 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith
11:33:50 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:36:09 Sen. Matt Regier
11:36:30 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:38:53 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:39:06 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:42:29 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative services
11:43:01 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith
11:43:12 Joe Carroll, LSD

ETHIC RULE OPTIONS - Continued

11:43:24 Joe Carroll, LSD
(See Exhibit 7)

Committee questions/Discussions

11:47:37 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:48:00 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:48:09 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:48:18 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:48:57 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith
11:49:40 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:50:17 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith

ETHIC RULE OPTIONS-Continued

11:51:05 Joe Carroll, LSD
(See Exhibit 7)

Committee questions/Discussions

11:58:35 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:58:50 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:59:04 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:59:18 Joe Carroll, LSD
11:59:27 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
11:59:39 Joe Carroll, LSD
12:00:13 Jerry Howe, Legislative Services Division Executive Director

Committee questions/Discussions

12:05:50 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
12:06:00 Joe Carroll, LSD
12:06:09 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
12:07:30 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith
12:07:52 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick

ETHIC RULE OPTIONS-Continued

12:09:33 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith
12:10:18 Joe Carroll, LSD
12:11:26 Vice Presiding Officer, Laura Smith
12:11:35 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
12:11:46 Joe Carroll, LSD
12:11:56 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
12:12:08 Carolyn Tschida, Chief Clerk, House of Representatives
12:12:48 Joe Carroll, LSD
12:15:02 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick

PUBLIC COMMENT

12:15:46 Todd Everts, LSD
12:16:04 Presiding Officer, Steve Fitzpatrick
12:16:15 Todd Everts, LSD
12:16:54 Sen. Matt Regier
12:17:03 Jerry Howe, LSD
12:17:13 Sen. Matt Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:17:45