



STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Cuffe
Theresa Manzella
Wendy McKamey
Jacinda Morigeau

HOUSE MEMBERS

Kelly Kortum
Marc Lee
Kathy Love
Mark Reinschmidt
Lukas Schubert
Peter Strand
Eric Tilleman

COMMITTEE STAFF

Rebecca Power - Lead Staff
Andria Hardin - Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

November 17, 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:

Sen. Theresa Manzella, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Marc Lee, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Kathy Love (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Mark Reinschmidt (R)
Rep. Lukas Schubert (R)
Rep. Peter Strand (D)
Rep. Eric Tilleman (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Rebecca Power, Lead Staff
Andria Hardin, Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**VISITORS' LIST** ([Attachment 2](#))**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

08:30:03 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

Meeting Overview

08:30:48 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

PENSION OVERSIGHT**Pensions 101 Presentation**

08:32:55 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:44:48 Sen. Mike Cuffe
(See Exhibit 1)

08:45:04 Rebecca Power, LSD

Pensions 101 Presentation - Continued

08:46:04 Rebecca Power, LSD
(See Exhibit 1)

08:50:14 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Fiscal Year 25 (FY25) Valuation Results for Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA) Systems

08:51:07 William Holahan, Executive Director, MPERA
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:01:58 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:02:20 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

FY25 Valuation Results for MPERA Systems - Continued

09:02:51 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

09:09:25 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:09:44 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

09:10:33 Sen. Mike Cuffe

09:11:27 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

FY25 Valuation Results for MPERA Systems - Continued

09:12:11 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

09:14:04 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:14:08 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

FY25 Valuation Results for MPERA Systems - Continued

09:14:46 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

09:17:59 Rep. Kelly Kortum

09:18:08 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

09:18:43 Sen. Mike Cuffe

09:18:59 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

09:19:56 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:19:59 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

09:20:02 Rep. Kelly Kortum

09:20:12 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

FY25 Valuation Results for MPERA Systems - Continued

09:20:33 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

09:28:19 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:28:40 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee

09:29:12 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

09:29:29 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
(See Exhibit 2)

09:29:39 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

09:32:39 Sen. Mike Cuffe

09:33:09 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

09:33:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
(See Exhibit 2)

09:34:12 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) FY25 Valuation Results

09:35:15 Shawn Graham, Executive Director, TRS
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:49:20 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
09:49:26 Dir. Shawn Graham, TRS
09:49:46 Sen. Mike Cuffe
(See Exhibit 3)
09:50:15 Dir. Shawn Graham, TRS
09:51:08 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
09:51:32 Dir. Shawn Graham, TRS

FY25 Green Sheets

09:53:34 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:56:36 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
09:57:02 Rep. Kelly Kortum
09:57:22 Sen. Mike Cuffe
(See Exhibit 5)
09:57:55 Rebecca Power, LSD
(See Exhibit 5)
09:58:36 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA
10:01:00 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Public Comment

10:02:10 Kevin Nelson
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
10:06:03 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:13:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:14:13 Dir. William Holahan, MPERA
10:15:31 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:16:09 Kevin Nelson
10:18:11 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
10:18:41 Kevin Nelson
10:21:00 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:21:21 Dir. Shawn Graham, TRS
10:23:05 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
10:23:37 Dir. Shawn Graham, TRS
10:25:26 Rep. Kelly Kortum
10:25:49 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:25:57 Rebecca Power, LSD

10:26:04 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:26:32 Sen. Mike Cuffe
10:27:27 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

10:28:05 **Recessed**
10:40:31 **Reconvened**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS)

Committee Q&A Regarding SOS Response to Committee Information Requests

10:40:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
10:41:24 Austin James, Elections Director, SOS
10:42:27 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:43:22 Dir. Austin James, SOS
10:44:56 Rep. Lukas Schubert
10:48:34 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:49:36 Dir. Austin James, SOS
10:50:45 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
10:51:00 Sen. Mike Cuffe
10:52:53 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:54:37 Rebecca Power, LSD
10:55:24 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
10:55:43 Rep. Lukas Schubert
10:56:19 Rep. Eric Tilleman
10:56:39 Dir. Austin James, SOS
10:57:17 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:57:33 Dir. Austin James, SOS
10:59:02 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
(See Exhibit 8)
10:59:31 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:59:52 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:00:28 Rebecca Power, LSD
11:01:35 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:02:00 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:02:52 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
11:03:21 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:04:00 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:04:57 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:13:11 Rep. Kelly Kortum
11:13:46 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:14:17 Rep. Peter Strand
11:15:03 Dir. Austin James, SOS

11:16:30 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
11:17:13 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:19:18 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:19:33 Rep. Kelly Kortum
11:20:18 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
11:20:47 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:21:49 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:23:17 Sen. Mike Cuffe
11:26:39 Dir. Austin James, SOS

Public Comment

11:27:31 Gina Reilly, Helena Resident
11:31:17 Mary Beveridge
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
11:37:20 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:42:50 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:47:24 Rep. Kelly Kortum
11:47:43 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:49:31 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:49:42 Dir. Austin James, SOS
11:52:53 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
11:53:17 Dir. Austin James, SOS

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) Response to Informal Objection to MAR 2025-256.1

11:55:18 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:55:31 Austin James, Elections Director, SOS
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:58:58 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:59:15 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
11:59:27 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, LSD

Public Comment

12:00:31 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder, Ravalli County
12:01:58 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

12:02:22 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
12:02:28 Dir. Austin James, SOS

Motion

12:03:33 Rep. Eric Tilleman moved to sustain the objection to MAR 2025-256.1.

Vote

12:03:50 Failed unanimously by voice vote.

Overview of November Rule Review Memo

12:04:23 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

12:04:44 Andria Hardin, LSD

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

12:14:47 Rep. Kelly Kortum

12:15:22 Andria Hardin, LSD

12:17:38 Rep. Lukas Schubert

12:18:21 Andria Hardin, LSD

12:18:37 Rep. Lukas Schubert

12:19:17 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Motion

12:20:49 Rep. Lukas Schubert moved to informally object the new rule and amendments to ARM 2.63.611 and 2.63.1201 proposed by the Department of Administration – State Lottery and Sports Wagering Commission.
(See Exhibit 11, MAR Notice 2025-272.1)

Discussion on the Motion

12:20:58 Sen. Mike Cuffe

12:21:11 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

12:21:30 Andria Hardin, LSD

Retraction of Motion

12:21:56 Rep. Lukas Schubert

12:22:00 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

12:22:40 **Recessed**

13:25:50 **Reconvened**

13:25:51 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau did not return via zoom from the lunch recess.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW - Continued**Committee Discussion with the Department of Administration (DOA)**

13:25:51 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

13:26:25 Bob Brown, State Lottery Director

13:27:03 Rep. Lukas Schubert

13:27:32 Dir. Bob Brown, State Lottery

13:32:16 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 13:32:26 Dir. Bob Brown, State Lottery
 13:36:27 Rep. Kelly Kortum
 13:37:03 Dir. Bob Brown, State Lottery
 13:38:14 Rep. Lukas Schubert
 13:38:26 Dir. Bob Brown, State Lottery
 13:38:46 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 13:39:06 Dir. Bob Brown, State Lottery
 13:41:08 Rep. Lukas Schubert
 13:41:22 Dir. Bob Brown, State Lottery
 13:41:46 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 13:42:05 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 13:42:25 Rep. Lukas Schubert

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER SAVA JURISDICTION

13:43:19 Loy Chvilicek
 13:46:51 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 13:48:00 Mary Beveridge
 13:50:42 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 13:51:28 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident
 14:01:16 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 14:01:38 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:02:29 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 14:02:43 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder, Ravalli County
 14:10:30 Rep. Kathy Love
 14:10:52 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
 14:13:24 Rep. Lukas Schubert
 (See Exhibit 12)
 14:14:00 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident
 14:14:26 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35: STUDY OF VOTER LIST MAINTENANCE & INTEGRITY
 Voter List Maintenance in Other States & Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Best Practices**

14:14:41 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 14:15:08 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:32:26 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

14:33:08 Rebecca Power, LSD
14:34:14 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder, Ravalli County
14:37:09 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident
14:38:32 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
[EXHIBIT 14](#)
14:40:49 Rebecca Power, LSD
(See Exhibit 14)

Current Process for Updating Death Records and Providing Information to the Office of the Secretary of State & County Election Officials

14:44:31 Laura Williamson, State Epidemiologist and Bureau Chief, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:50:31 Rep. Lukas Schubert
14:50:54 Laura Williamson, DPHHS
14:51:40 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:52:28 Laura Williamson, DPHHS
14:53:45 Rep. Eric Tilleman
14:54:10 Rebecca Power, LSD
14:54:29 Toni Kramer, Election Administrator, Lake County
14:55:16 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:55:37 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder, Ravalli County
14:55:58 Laura Williamson, DPHHS
14:56:58 Sen. Wendy McKamey left the meeting.

Public Comment

14:57:24 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident
15:00:49 Gina Reilly
15:03:20 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:04:27 Mary Beveridge
15:06:59 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Committee Discussion / Questions

15:07:41 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:07:48 Rebecca Power, LSD
15:07:52 Rep. Lukas Schubert
15:08:08 Rebecca Power, LSD
15:08:17 Mary Beveridge
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Work Session - Additional Instructions to Staff

15:09:26 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

15:09:48 Rebecca Power, LSD
15:13:24 Rep. Lukas Schubert
15:14:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:14:36 Rep. Eric Tilleman
15:15:00 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:15:34 Rebecca Power, LSD

15:17:51 **Recessed**
15:25:44 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT 48: STUDY OF MOVING THE PRIMARY ELECTION DATE

Stakeholder Perspectives

15:26:00 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:27:06 Keaton Sunchild, Director of Government and Political Relations, Western Native Voice

Committee Discussion / Questions

15:35:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:35:58 Keaton Sunchild, Western Native Voice
15:37:41 Rep. Lukas Schubert
15:37:56 Keaton Sunchild, Western Native Voice
15:39:13 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:39:27 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:40:03 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:40:16 Rebecca Power, LSD
15:40:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Stakeholder Perspectives - Continued

15:41:16 Toni Kramer, Election Administrator, Lake County
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

15:46:58 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:47:24 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:50:16 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 19](#)

Survey of Election Administrators Regarding Suggestions for a New Primary Date

15:52:01 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
[EXHIBIT 20](#)
15:52:37 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder, Ravalli County
15:53:07 Rebecca Power, LSD

Committee Discussion / Questions

15:56:26 Rep. Kathy Love
15:56:43 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:57:09 Rep. Lukas Schubert
15:57:28 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:59:29 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
16:00:00 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:00:11 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:01:00 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
16:01:14 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:01:37 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:02:14 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:02:31 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:03:45 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:04:23 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:05:10 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:05:54 Toni Kramer, Election Administrator, Lake County
16:06:47 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:08:00 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:10:29 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:11:46 Rep. Eric Tilleman
16:12:06 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:12:15 Toni Kramer, Lake County
16:13:29 Rep. Peter Strand
16:14:00 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:14:34 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:17:13 Rep. Eric Tilleman
16:17:54 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:18:46 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:20:01 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:20:19 Rep. Peter Strand
16:20:57 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:22:22 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:22:39 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:22:45 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:24:15 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
16:24:34 Rep. Eric Tilleman
16:25:09 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:25:36 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:25:46 Rebecca Power, LSD

16:26:42 Rep. Eric Tilleman
16:28:37 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:28:51 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:29:16 Rep. Peter Strand
16:30:00 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:30:17 Rep. Eric Tilleman
16:30:41 Rep. Kathy Love
16:31:24 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:31:48 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:32:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:32:34 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff of the Education Interim Committee and the School Funding Interim Commission, LSD
16:34:52 Rep. Peter Strand
16:35:24 Pad McCracken, LSD
16:36:26 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:36:49 Pad McCracken, LSD

Public Comment

16:37:52 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County Resident

Work Session - Next Steps for House Joint Resolution 48 Study

16:43:33 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:43:51 Rebecca Power, LSD

Committee Discussion / Questions

16:45:17 Rep. Lukas Schubert
16:45:46 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:46:08 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:46:43 Rebecca Power, LSD

MEETING WRAP UP

Next Meeting – Monday, January 12, 2026

16:47:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:47:11 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 21](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

16:49:01 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
16:49:33 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:49:41 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:50:43 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:51:13 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

16:51:27 Rebecca Power, LSD
(See Exhibit 21)
16:52:06 Rep. Eric Tilleman
16:52:36 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:53:22 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:53:37 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:54:14