



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

July 30, 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. Mike Cuffe, Acting Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Acting Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Marc Lee (D)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Mark Reinschmidt (D)
Rep. Lukas Schubert (R)
Rep. Peter Strand (D)
Rep. Eric Tilleman (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Kathy Love (R)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)

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**

08:31:16 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

Introduction to State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee (SAVA)

08:35:00 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
08:35:19 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
08:35:34 Ania Alduenda, Secretary, LSD
08:35:55 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, LSD
08:36:05 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Committee Member Introductions

08:40:16 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
08:40:33 Rep. Eric Tilleman
08:40:51 Rep. Marc Lee
08:41:07 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
08:41:20 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
08:41:45 Rep. Lukas Schubert
08:42:06 Rep. Peter Strand
08:42:24 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
08:45:09 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
08:45:58 Rep. Eric Tilleman
08:47:20 Rep. Marc Lee
08:48:45 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
08:49:30 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
08:50:32 Rep. Lukas Schubert
08:51:58 Rep. Peter Strand
08:52:53 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

AGENCY INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS

08:54:03 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Department of Administration (DOA)

08:54:21 Misty Ann Giles, Director, DOA
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:14:57 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
09:15:13 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
09:15:24 Director Misty Ann Giles, DOA
09:18:01 Rep. Eric Tilleman
09:18:29 Director Misty Ann Giles
09:19:22 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
09:19:42 Director Misty Ann Giles
09:21:41 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

ADMINISTRATIVE MANNERS

09:22:00 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Senate Bill 64 – Legislator Reimbursement Changes

09:23:03 Angie Carter, Financial Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
09:25:37 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:27:10 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
09:27:31 Director Angie Carter, LSD
09:28:29 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
09:28:49 Director Angie Carter
09:29:13 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
09:29:18 Director Angie Carter
09:29:51 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
09:30:01 Director Angie Carter
09:30:23 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

2025 Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees

09:30:38 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Proxy Votes

09:33:10 Rebecca Power, LSD

2025 Legislation Summary

09:35:41 Rebecca Power
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
09:40:11 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

SAVA Responsibilities

09:40:26 Rebecca Power
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

09:43:16 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

09:44:52 Rebecca Power

Committee Website Overview

09:46:02 Rebecca Power

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

09:48:46 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Preliminary Discussion of Draft Work Plan

09:49:13 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

09:49:32 Rebecca Power

(See Exhibit 5)

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Proposed Meeting Schedule

09:58:19 Rebecca Power

(See Exhibit 5)

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:58:56 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

10:00:33 **Recessed**

10:25:18 **Reconvened**

AGENCY INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS - Continued

10:25:19 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)

10:25:51 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, SOS

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:30:47 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

10:31:26 Christi Jacobsen, SOS

Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

10:33:01 Chris Gallus, Commissioner, COPP

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

10:52:36 Shelley Hendricksen-Scott, Staff Attorney, COPP

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:55:12 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

10:55:45 Commissioner Chris Gallus, COPP

10:56:42 Shelley Hendricksen-Scott, COPP
10:58:15 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

10:58:50 Brigadier General Trent Gibson, Director and Adjutant General, DMA
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:21:56 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
11:22:34 Brigadier General Trent Gibson, DMA
11:23:32 Rep. Eric Tilleman
11:23:44 Brigadier General Trent Gibson
11:25:04 Rep. Lukas Schubert
11:25:12 Brigadier General Trent Gibson
11:25:44 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
11:26:11 Brigadier General Trent Gibson

Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD)

11:28:29 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
11:28:51 Kelly Ackerman, Division Administrator, MVAD
[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:36:27 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

11:37:59 **Recessed**
12:50:36 **Reconvened**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN SAVA JURISDICTION

12:50:37 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
12:52:21 Elizabeth Hale, Helena
12:54:18 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
12:54:36 Mary Beveridge, Helena
[EXHIBIT 14](#)

AGENCY INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEWS – Continued

13:06:04 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

13:07:05 William Holahan, Executive Director, MPERA
[EXHIBIT 15](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:21:25 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
13:21:59 Director William Holahan, MPERA

Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)

13:23:58 Shawn Graham, Executive Director, TRS
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:35:15 None

Montana Board of Investments (BOI)

13:35:40 Dan Villa, Executive Director, BOI
[EXHIBIT 17](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:39:45 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

13:40:33 **Recessed**

13:51:42 **Reconvened**

OVERVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW DUTIES

13:51:43 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Administrative Rulemaking Process and Committee Role

13:52:29 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:07:10 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

14:07:24 Andria Hardin, LSD

Administrative Rulemaking Process and Committee Role - Continued

14:08:01 Andria Hardin
[EXHIBIT 20](#)
[EXHIBIT 21](#)

WORK SESSION - SAVA WORK PLAN

14:15:20 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Proxy Votes

14:18:01 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

14:19:49 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:21:16 Rep. Peter Strand

14:21:48 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

14:22:42 Rep. Eric Tilleman

Motion

14:23:08 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved to accept written proxies in the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee.

Vote

14:23:56 Carried 5-3 by voice vote with Rep. Lukas Schubert, Rep. Mark Reinschmidt, and Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe voting 'no'. Rep. Kathy Love, Sen. Theresa Manzella, and Sen. Wendy McKamey were not present for the vote.

Assigned Studies and Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Allocation

14:24:30 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

14:24:39 Rebecca Power, LSD

[EXHIBIT 22](#)

[EXHIBIT 23](#)

[EXHIBIT 24](#)

[EXHIBIT 25](#)

(See Exhibit 8)

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:28:17 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum

14:29:26 Rep. Marc Lee

14:29:36 Rebecca Power

14:30:38 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum

14:30:51 Rebecca Power

14:31:56 Rep. Lukas Schubert

14:32:29 Rep. Eric Tilleman

14:33:00 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

14:33:42 Rep. Peter Strand

14:33:55 Rebecca Power

14:35:15 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

14:35:19 Rebecca Power

14:38:27 Rep. Peter Strand

14:39:08 Rebecca Power

14:39:56 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

14:41:17 Rep. Eric Tilleman

14:41:49 Rebecca Power

14:42:26 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

14:44:33 **Recessed**

14:50:54 **Reconvened**

WORK SESSION - SAVA WORK PLAN - Continued

14:50:55 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Assigned Studies and FTE Allocation - Continued

14:51:13 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
14:51:23 Rebecca Power
14:52:36 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
14:52:56 Rebecca Power
14:53:18 Rep. Eric Tilleman
14:53:44 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
14:54:26 Rebecca Power

Public Comment

14:55:52 Mary Beveridge, Helena
14:56:02 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Motion

14:59:10 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum moved to adopt the tentative work plan as presented. (See Exhibit 23)

Discussion on the Motion

14:59:26 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
14:59:34 Rebecca Power

Substitute Motion

15:00:04 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum rescinded his previous motion and moved to adopt the work plan matrix and FTE allocation as presented. (See Exhibit 23)

Discussion on the Motion

15:00:14 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Vote

15:00:23 Carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Kathy Love, Sen. Theresa Manzella, and Sen. Wendy McKamey were not present for the vote.

Rule Review Agenda Items

15:01:26 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
15:01:34 Rebecca Power

Committee Discussion / Questions

15:03:21 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
15:03:42 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Proposed Meeting Schedule

15:04:00 Rebecca Power
(See Exhibit 5)
15:04:49 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Committee Discussion / Questions

15:06:41 Rebecca Power
15:06:52 Rep. Peter Strand
15:07:00 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
15:07:24 Acting Vice Presiding Officer Kelly Kortum
15:07:31 Rep. Marc Lee
15:08:12 Rebecca Power
15:08:54 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
15:09:52 Rep. Peter Strand
15:10:14 Rebecca Power
15:10:50 Rep. Marc Lee
15:10:56 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
15:11:10 Rebecca Power
15:12:11 Rep. Marc Lee
15:12:21 Rebecca Power
15:14:00 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

MEETING WRAP UP

15:16:46 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Meeting Schedule

15:17:08 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:18:44 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

Summary of Meeting and Wrap Up

15:19:13 Rebecca Power, LSD
15:19:59 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
15:20:26 Rep. Eric Tilleman
15:20:46 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:22:02