



**2019-2020
Montana Legislature Interim Committee Overview**

Children, Families, Health and Human Services				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Eric Moore, Chair Sen. Diane Sands, Vice Chair	Allowed except in instances where Senate rules for standing committees restrict voting to those members who are present.	Simple Majority	The committee agreed to spend the bulk of its time on three of its five study assignments – the HJR 48 study of ways to support families involved in the child protective services system, the HJR 49 study of the role of law enforcement and the judiciary in the child protective services system, and the HJR 50 study of the Senior and Long -Term Care Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. The committee will spend a limited amount of time on the HJR 32 study of prenatal drug abuse and on reviewing Senate Bill 202 from the 2019 session, implementing the Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act.	November 14-15, 2019 January 16-17, 2020 March 19-20, 2020 May 11, 2020 June 29, 2020 August 27-28, 2020
Economic Affairs				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy, Chair Rep. Vince Ricci, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The committee adopted a work plan in September that includes the following two studies (of the three assigned) plus studies of member issues related to alcohol laws, broadband, and implementation of presumptive disease for firefighters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJ 24, revenue and distribution of lodging facility use tax; and • SJ 18, occupational licensing barriers for individuals with criminal records. • The committee voted not to take up HJ 29, a study of meat inspection laws, and notified Legislative Council of that decision. 	November 7, 2019 January 2020 (TBD) February 12-13, 2020 April 28, 2020 June 30-July 1, 2020 September 10, 2020
Education				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair Sen. Edie McClafferty, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple majority on motions except approval of committee bills (2/3)	The committee's study priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student safety and well-being (mental health, HJ 56/bullying, etc.); • CTE and alignment of education and workforce; • student loan debt; and • preschool 	November 21-22, 2019 (at MSU - Bozeman, with a joint meeting with the Board of Regents) January 16, 2020 March 19-20, 2020 June 19-20, 2020 September 14, 2020



Energy and Telecommunications				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Derek Skees, Chair Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The committee's study priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HJ 12 Transmission Infrastructure: Review the state of the Montana grid system, capacity issues and wildfire and reliability threats. PSC Study: Review the current role of the PSC, MCC, and Legislature in utility regulation. Provide guides for the role and procedures of the PSC. Energy Storage: Examine current technology and deployment in other states and panel discussions of the industry in Montana. 	January 13, 2019 March 23-24, 2019 May 21-22, 2019 July 15, 2019 September 8, 2019
Environmental Quality Council				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Jim Keane, Chair Sen. Mike Lang, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The council dedicated about a third of it's time to studying issues related to chronic wasting disease, a disease fatal to deer, elk, and moose. The September 2019 meeting in Libby will include a tour of an affected deer population. Other studies include HJ38, study of bonding, decommissioning, and remediation for energy facilities; SJ20, a study of wilderness study areas; and SJ30, a study of how fish and wildlife location data are disseminated.	Jan. 15-16, 2020 March 25-26 May 27-28 July 29-30 September 9-10, 2020
Law and Justice				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Barry Usher, Chair Sen. Jen Gross, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The committee devoted most of its staff time to three priorities: the HJ 31 study of the Montana Board of Crime Control, the SJ19 study of the sexual and violent offender registries, and agency monitoring duties.	November 18, 2019 January 27-28, 2020 March 30-31, 2020 (Missoula) May 12, 2020 July 13, 2020 September 14, 2020
Local Government				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Sen. Margie MacDonald, Chair Rep. Geraldine Custer, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The committee will spend a quarter of its time on SJ3, a study of alternative septic systems. Members also expressed interest in subdivision review, which dovetails into SJ3. In addition, the committee plans to study the entitlement share system, special district funding, affordable housing, and fire protection authorities. The committee also chose to receive information on the pension system, track the implementation of SB 302 and SB 2, and examine the funding mechanism of the Montana State University Local Government Center.	November 12-13, 2019 January 15, 2020 March 18, 2020 May 13, 2020 July 14, 2020 September 9, 2020



Revenue				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Alan Redfield, Chair Sen. Dick Barrett, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The committee will spend three-quarters of its time on the HJ 35 study of state and local taxation. The other committee priority is its new statutory requirement to review income tax credits.	November 18-19, 2019 January 13, 2020 March 19-20, 2020 May 12-13, 2020 July 20-21, 2020 September 11, 2020 November 19, 2020
State Administration and Veterans' Affairs				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Wendy McKamey, Chair Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair	No proxies allowed.	Voting by chamber. Conference committee style	The committee allocated most staff time to its assigned studies on state veterans' services (HJ 23) and accessibility for disabled electors (HJ 3), to include monitoring the use of federal HAVA grant money, implementation of the Ballot Interference Prevention Act, signature requirements for ballot qualification, and state lobbying laws. Most of its statutory oversight duties will be devoted to public pensions. The committee will also receive briefings on the Montana Heritage Center, the new sports wagering law, education for children of active duty military families, and state flag protocols at the Capitol.	October 29, 2019 December 3, 2019 January 17, 2020 February 27, 2020 March 25, 2020 June 17, 2020 August 25, 2020 October 29, 2020
State-Tribal Relations				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Sen. Jason Small, Chair Rep. Rae Peppers, Vice Chair	No proxies allowed.	Simple Majority.	The committee allocated a majority of its time to studying barriers to American Indian voting and improving communication between state child protective services and tribes in order to reduce the number of American Indian children in foster care. The committee will also investigate reasons youth repeatedly runaway and opportunities to improve reservation highway maintenance.	November 11-12, 2019 March 5-6, 2020 June 29, 2020 August 24, 2020
Transportation				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Sen. Gordy Vance, Chair Sen. Diane Sands, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The committee adopted a work plan and will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJ 28, traffic safety systems and policy; • HJ 45, bicycle and pedestrian path usage and cost; • MDT Oversight and a review of road construction in Montana; and • Electric vehicles and impacts to the fuel tax. 	November 1, 2019 January 13, 2020 March 23, 2020 May 20, 2020 July 20, 2020 September 11, 2020



Water Policy				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Study Priorities	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Zach Brown, Chair Sen. Jeff Welborn, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple majority. Seven votes to preintroduce committee legislation	The WPIC chose to conduct HJ14 (Study of the future of the water court), and HJ40 (Study of weather modification). It is expected the subject matter of both studies may broaden over the course of the committee's six-meeting interim period. The committee added a third study of "climate considerations for water rights."	January 6-7, 2020 March 9-10, 2020 May 18-19, 2020 July 13-14, 2020 September 14-15, 2020
MUS 2-Year Commission				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Duties	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Sue Vinton, Chair Sen. Edie McClafferty, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	<p>The MUS 2-Year Commission was formed after the passage of HB 754 (Vinton) during the 2019 Legislative Session. The temporary 16-member commission is tasked with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examining the impacts of incorporating the former vocational-technical centers into the Montana University System as 2-year campuses attached to 4-year campuses; and considering whether a different organizational structure would better serve Montanans. <p>The commission is required to meet quarterly and prepare a report of findings and recommendations to the 67th (2021) Legislature.</p>	Nov. 4, 2019 Jan. 27, 2020 April 6, 2020 June 22, 2020 Sept. 28, 2020



Administrative Committees				
Legislative Council				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Duties	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Casey Schreiner, Chair Sen. Mark Blasdel, Vice Chair	Allowed	Simple Majority	The Legislative Council provides ongoing leadership, direction, and foresight for the efficient operation and improvement of the Legislative Branch. It is the administrative committee for the division and the administrative committee that submits the Legislative Branch budget each session.	December 16-17, 2019 January 14-16, 2020 March 23-24, 2020 June 9-10, 2020 August 24-25, 2020 November 17, 2020
Legislative Finance Committee				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Duties	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Rep. Kim Dudik, Chair Sen. Ryan Osmundson, Vice Chair Rep. Llew Jones, Secretary	Allowed	8 voting members is quorum and a vote of 7 members to carry motions	The Legislative Finance Committee oversees the Legislative Fiscal Division. The LFC meets during the interim between sessions to review fiscal issues. Meeting agendas, minutes, and reports will be added to this website as they become available.	Dec. 16-17, 2019 Jan. 14-16, 2020 March 23-24, 2020 June 8-9, 2020 Sept. 14- 15, 2020
Legislative Audit Committee				
Leadership	Proxies	Voting	Duties	Tentative Meeting Schedule
Sen. Dee Brown, Chair Rep. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter, Secretary	Allowed	Simple Majority. 10 members to organize and elect officers	The Audit Committee appoints, consults with, and advises the Legislative Auditor. The Audit Committee reviews the audit reports submitted by the Legislative Auditor, releases the audit reports to the public, and serves as the conduit between the Legislative Auditor and the Legislature.	Oct. 30, 2019 Dec. 11-12, 2019 April 16-17, 2020 June 15-16, 2020 Oct. 6, 2020 Dec. 10-11, 2020