



LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

66th Montana Legislature

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

SENATE MEMBERS

JANET ELLIS
TOM JACOBSON
BOB KEENAN
RYAN OSMUNDSON
DANIEL SALOMON
JON SESSO

HOUSE MEMBERS

NANCY BALLANCE
DAVID BEDEY
MARY CAFERRO
KIMBERLY DUDIK
JIM HAMILTON
KENNETH HOLMLUND
MIKE HOPKINS
LLEW JONES
RYAN LYNCH
BILL MERCER
RAE PEPPERS
MARILYN RYAN

JULIE JOHNSON, Staff Attorney
KAREN GILBERT, Secretary
AMY CARLSON, Legislative Fiscal Analyst

MINUTES LOG

May 29, 2019
Room 317, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides a notation 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 record 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 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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Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. MARK BLASDEL
SEN. MARGARET MACDONALD
SEN. JP POMNICHOWSKI
SEN. SCOTT SALES
SEN. JON SESSO
SEN. FRED THOMAS

REP. KIM ABBOTT
REP. WYLIE GALT
REP. GREG HERTZ
REP. SHANE MORGIGEAU
REP. CASEY SCHREINER

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. JANET ELLIS

SEN. TOM JACOBSON
SEN. RYAN OSMUNDSON
SEN. DAN SALOMON
SEN. JON SESSO

REP. NANCY BALLANCE
REP. DAVID BEDEY
REP. MARY CAFERRO
REP. KIMBERLY DUDIK
REP. JIM HAMILTON
REP. KENNETH HOLMLUND
REP. MIKE HOPKINS
REP. LLEW JONES
REP. RYAN LYNCH
REP. BILL MERCER
REP. RAE PEPPERS
REP. MARILYN RYAN

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

REP. SETH BERGLEE
SEN. BOB KEENAN

STAFF PRESENT

AMY CARLSON, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
SUSAN FOX, Legislative Services Executive Director
JULIE JOHNSON, Legal Staff
KAREN GILBERT, Committee Secretary

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 1](#))

AGENDA ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

11:11:20 Co-Chair Schreiner called the meeting to order. Sen. Keenan was excused.

Opening remarks

11:12:08 Sen. Ryan Osmundson gave an overview of SB 310, a joint study by the Legislative Council and Legislative Finance Committee to consider an annual session including different budgeting and policy processes for future legislatures.

11:14:28 Susan Fox, Legislative Services Executive Director, discussed the agenda and

schedule for the meeting.

Public comment

11:19:32 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association
11:23:52 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget & Policy Center
11:25:03 Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell

Round 1 – Goal-Setting / Lunch

11:27:27 The committee broke into five groups, as indicated by Ms. Fox, to discuss issues, principles to guide the study, and study goals while they ate lunch.

Groups report out

12:20:36 Group A
12:25:12 Group B
12:29:32 Group C
12:34:16 Group D
12:37:33 Group E

Round 2 – Objectives

12:40:05 Co-Chair Dudik asked if the group wanted to stay in small groups or move to the table, the consensus was go back to the big table for discussion.

12:40:56 Amy Carlson, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, presented a distilled version of the legislator's list of goals, with an overarching goal being to strengthen the legislative branch and the relationships within it.

Round 3 – Discussion of potential work plan items, timeline for study

12:43:17 Rep. Jones said he wants to ensure multiple committees with overlapping interests are in town at the same time with joint meetings.

12:45:01 Sen. Osmundson said you have to break it up in terms of cross-pollination between budget and policy and said the speaker suggested moving a standing committee to continue work in the interim.

12:47:22 Rep. Jones said committee assignments should be thoughtfully done, as it was in the Senate, but that is not possible in that matter in the house. He asked if they could define best practices and present to leadership.

12:49:10 Rep. Ballance said during her first session she was on the education appropriations subcommittee and the chairman of the House Education

Committee had meetings twice per week over the noon hour and the two committees got together and talked about what was going on in those areas. She said it worked well in terms of communication.

- 12:50:38 Speaker Hertz suggested a decompressed timeline going into session on even-numbered years to allow for newly elected legislators to work on committees before the session starts. He asked if that would be considered as they think about annual sessions.
- 12:51:36 Sen. Pomnichowski said agency and bill updates at every other interim committee meeting would be helpful to follow legislation so if something wasn't on track with legislative intent it wouldn't be the next session before they could make it right.
- 12:53:00 Sen. Thomas said a friend texted him something that made him think of the three equal branches of government. He said they dance around the problem of having no authority to act outside the session. He said the Judiciary is in effect 24 months of term and the executive branch is in effect all the time, but the legislature is constitutionally bound to 90 days.
- 12:55:02 Sen. MacDonald said her group talked a lot about managing the calendar and elongating the 90 days, a more deliberative pacing of work. She said they could include dividing 90 days into two different parts of the cycle. She said they could be more nimble and able to respond to a court decision or the executive branch. She said they have a 19th century calendar in a 21st century world.
- 12:56:39 Sen. Osmundson said it would be helpful to understand how other states do this -- they don't wait until day one to show up and start work.
- 12:58:55 Speaker Hertz said reaching out to other states would be helpful.
- 12:59:35 Sen. Pomnichowski said her group discussed changing the shape of the interim. She said they could focus more on legislative work and trying to preempt the session. She said the interim doesn't have to be study-based, they could use the interim more creatively.
- 13:00:50 Co-Chair Dudik asked Ms. Carlson and Ms. Fox if they have enough information to proceed.
- 13:01:02 Ms. Carlson said the items fit under the initial structure she suggested. She said she would want a group to get feedback from before first big meeting.
- 13:01:50 Ms. Fox said that would be helpful to get a steering committee or sub-committee.
- 13:02:39 Co-Chair Dudik said the steering committee idea made sense. She asked if a steering committee or staff would put together the study plan.
- 13:03:03 Ms. Fox said they would come up with a study plan and work with the steering committee to refine it.

13:03:51 Co-Chair Dudik said the Legislative Finance Committee already has a SB 310 subcommittee that would work well with the steering committee including Rep. Ryan, Sen. Osmundson, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Sesso.

13:04:33 Co-Chair Dudik asked who else would like to be involved and Rep. Galt, Sen. Pomnichowski, Rep. Abbott, Sen. MacDonald, Sen. Thomas, Rep. Hopkins, and Rep. Holmlund volunteered.

13:05:42 Co-Chair Dudik asked if Sen. Osmundson could spearhead the steering committee and he said yes.

Adjourn

13:06:20 With no public comment and no further business before the committee, Co-Chair Dudik adjourned the meeting.