

INTERIM WORK SUMMARY: LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW

The Law and Justice Interim Committee (LJIC) completed several interim studies assigned to it for the 2021-2022 interim. In addition, the LJIC conducted its statutory oversight duties and explored members' topics of interest. The committee sent six bills to the 2023 Legislature.

The LJIC completed four interim studies and forwarded six committee bills to the 2023 Legislature for further consideration.

INTERIM STUDIES

Of the LJIC's interim studies, one was assigned by bill and five were assigned by Legislative Council.

Senate Bill No. 303 (SB 303) requested the LJIC to study inmate telecommunication contract and costs. The five studies requested by resolution were:

- **HJ 4: Study of criminal proceedings and commitment of people with mental illness**
- HJ 29: Study of victim services and funding in Montana
- **HJ 31: Study of criminal justice system data in Montana**
- **HJ 40: Study of the Judicial Standards Commission**
- SJ 26: Study of the Montana Women's Prison

The studies highlighted in bold were completed by the LJIC using the typical study process. The LJIC asked Legislative Council to redirect the HJ 29 study of victim services and funding to an interim budget subcommittee that focuses on criminal justice system stakeholder budgets. The LJIC incorporated elements of the SJ 26 study of the Montana Women's Prison into the committee's statutorily required agency oversight duties.

Additional information about each study, including detailed work plans and study results, are available at the LJIC's website: <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/ljic/>

BILL DRAFTS

The LJIC voted to send six bills to the 2023 Legislature. While the LJIC chose different legislative approaches to resolve questions posed in several studies, not all of the studies resulted in recommendations for statutory changes. Two of the six bills approved by the LJIC originated during agency oversight or discussion of member issues of interest. Details of the bills approved by the LJIC are below. The bills that originated from agency oversight or member interest are noted with a star by the LC number. Each bill can be tracked on the Legislative Automated Workflow System by using the assigned LC number: [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w\\$.startup?P_SESS=20231](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/law0203w$.startup?P_SESS=20231)

LC Number (LJIC Draft Number)	Short Title	Sponsor
<u>LC 282</u> (HJ4-1)	Generally revise laws related to conditional release of criminal commitment defendant	Sen. Jen Gross (Rep. Laurie Bishop as backup)
<u>LC 285</u> (SB303-1)	Revise laws related to contracts for inmate telecommunications	Sen. Tom McGillvray
<u>LC 357</u> (HJ31-4)	Generally revise criminal justice system laws (Create data warehouse)	Rep. Barry Usher (will serve in the Senate in 2023)
<u>LC 358*</u> (LJIC-1)	Revising laws on public defender representation related to local ordinances	Sen. Ryan Lynch
<u>LC 359</u> (from the HJ 31 study)	Joint resolution related to the Justice Counts Initiative	Sen. Ryan Lynch
<u>LC 360*</u>	Revise DUI laws related to admissible tests for presence of drugs	Sen. Keith Regier