



MODERNIZATION AND RISK ANALYSIS STUDY COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

John Esp
Christopher Pope

HOUSE MEMBERS

Mary Caferro
Jim Hamilton
Llew Jones
Bill Mercer

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Kendall Cotton
Lance Fourstar
Dwayne Iverson
Heather O'Loughlin

COMMITTEE STAFF

Amy Carlson - Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Julie Johnson - Attorney
Josh Poulette - Lead Fiscal Analyst
Jennifer Whitt - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

October 10, 2024

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:

Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Kendall Cotton, Public Member
Sen. John Esp (R)
Lance Fourstar, Public Member
Dwayne Iverson, Public Member
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Heather O'Loughlin, Public Member
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

INVITED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Brad Barker
Sen. Becky Beard
Rep David Bedey
Sen. Kenneth Bogner
Rep. Larry Brewster

Rep. Jennifer Carlson
Sen . Mike Cuffe
Sen. Willis Curdy
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
Sen Janet Ellis
Rep Terry Falk
Sen John Fuller
Rep Jane Gillette
Rep Connie Keogh
Sen. Dennis Lenz
Sen Theresa Manzella
Rep Eric Matthews
Sen Tom McGillvray
Rep Linda Reksten
Rep Melissa Romano
Rep Jerry Schillinger
Rep Laura Smith
Rep Mark Thane
Sen Susan Webber

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Carlson, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Julie Johnson, Attorney
Josh Poulette, Lead Fiscal Analyst
Jennifer Whitt, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:32:25 Chair Llew Jones called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

08:32:30 Roll Call with MARA members and additional legislators invited to participate

08:36:40 Amy Carlson, Director of Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), introduced visitors

08:37:10 Nolan Langwell, Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

08:37:33 Camille Tesch, Indiana Legislative Services Agency, Office of Fiscal Management Analysis

08:38:09 Leo Garcia, NCSL, Fiscal Affairs Program

08:38:45 Kil Huh, Pew Charitable Trust, Senior Vice President, Government Performance

08:39:38 Mary Murphy, Pew Charitable Trust, Senior Director of Fiscal and Economic Policy

Conversation on Wildfire: Practices, Finance, and the Future

08:41:23 Amanda Kaster, Director of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), provided overview on presentation

08:45:19 Wyatt Frampton, Deputy Division Administrator of Forestry DNRC, presented slideshow

09:11:42 Rep Jones provided summary of HB 883

09:13:50 Rep Hamilton asked about funding types

09:19:10 Kendall Cotton asked about contracts, HB 883, and data on carbon emissions from fires

09:23:21 Sen Webber asked about cooperation between DNRC and reservations

09:25:19 Sonia Nowakowski, Director of Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), presented on adaptive smoke monitoring

09:30:26 Bo Wilkins, Air Quality Bureau Chief DEQ, presented slideshow

09:40:11 Leanne Marten, US Forest Service

09:49:58 Aaron Thompson, Bureau of Land Management

09:59:38 Pat McKelvey, Firesafe

10:07:20 Patty Hernandez, Headwaters Economics

10:21:51 Rick Edwards, Director of Community Connection, Northwest Energy

10:28:42 Frank Cote, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, State Auditor's Office

10:33:01 Lyn Elliott, American Property Casual Insurance Association

10:51:23 Bob Biskupiak, Big I Montana, Director of Government and Technical Affairs

10:57:36 Rep Carlson asked Wyatt Frampton about the exclusive use contract

10:59:56 Rep Carlson asked follow up questions about contract

11:02:15 Sen Pope asked about climate change

11:04:46 Amanda Kaster, DNRC, responded

11:07:29 Rep Jones asked members to prioritize forestry service questions

11:07:44 Rep Bedey asked about infrared monitoring of forest fires

11:09:37 Leanne Marten responded

11:12:14 Rep Bedey provided commentary on response

11:14:19 Sen Curdy asked questions on aircraft and aviation contracts

11:15:46 Wyatt Frampton responded

11:19:01 Sen Webber asked about personnel regarding firefighters

11:19:21 Aaron Thompson responded

11:19:57 Sen Webber asked about reliance on local firefighters during fire season

11:21:12 Sen Ellis asked about mitigation money and allocation of funds

11:21:57 Wyatt Frampton responded

11:23:47 Sen Ellis about road and structural standards regarding firesafe

11:27:33 Kendall Cotton asked insurance questions and about catastrophe savings account

11:28:16 Lyn Elliot responded

11:28:57 Rep Hamilton asked about limited flexibility

11:30:42 Patty Hernandez responded

11:33:44 Rep Hamilton asked who the potential audience is for the tools outlined

11:34:00 Patty Hernandez responded

Wildfire Module

11:36:53 Rob Miller, Alice Hecht, and Kate Flavin, LFD Fiscal Analysts, presented on the wildfire module

11:57:17 Rep Jones requested the module be shown in real time for visiting representatives to see the functions

12:05:17 Sen Ellis asked clarification questions on prioritization of charts within module

12:06:21 Sen Esp commented on the historical charts

12:09:12 Sen Webber asked about the data regarding farmland and ranch life loss

12:10:42 Rep Carlson asked about setting parameters within module

12:13:51 Sen Dunwell asked about navigation to access the modules and tools

12:13:55 Sen Dunwell asked about mitigation benefits and costs and funding resources

12:16:56 Amanda Kaster responded

Lunch

12:18:32 Reconvene at 12:47:41

Housing Update

12:48:34 Molly Del Curto, Fiscal Analyst LFD, introduced the online library. Started housing update presentation

12:59:29 Toni Henneman, Research Director with Legislative Services Division (LSD), finalized presentation

13:25:06 Rep Gillette asked if teachers were more sensitive to housing prices

13:26:42 Sen Webber asked if presentation data was based on median salaries

13:27:36 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner of Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), responded

13:29:49 Sen Esp asked about the housing in Deer Lodge

13:30:43 Rep Reksten asked about the teacher shortage and how that correlates to lack of housing

13:32:08 Mandy Rambo, Deputy Director of Department of Commerce, responded

13:37:08 Sen Curdy asked questions about Section 8 housing

13:38:05 Mandy Rambo, Department of Commerce, provided fair market rent update

13:44:53 Rep Carlson asked about HUD housing vouchers

13:46:11 Josh Poulette, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented the housing module and the Minneapolis FED dashboard

13:48:06 Kendall Cotton asked about the library and interactive tools

MARA's Modular Forecasting Process

13:50:12 Nick Van Brown, LFD, presented

14:01:14 Sen Ellis asked about reference pages for newer users

Public Safety Module and Criminal Justice Data Efforts

14:05:30 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented

14:20:46 Sen Ellis expressed concerns that module seems too one dimensional

14:22:04 Rep Jones provided commentary on better cooperation amongst departments

14:23:12 Rep Mercer provided comments on struggles with gathering data for module

14:28:36 Rep Hamilton

14:29:40 Sen Ellis asked questions about parole board and parole process

14:30:51 Sen Webber asked about breakdown of data and demographics, privacy concerns within data, SB11
14:36:15 Rep Carlson asked a clarification question
14:37:26 Rep Gillette asked about Montana state hospital and jail holds
14:41:04 Rep Mercer provided comments on SB 11 study
14:45:12 Rep Jones asked about the violent crime category

Break

14:50:32 Reconvene at 15:01:36

Sales Tax Modeling

15:02:09 Sam Schaefer, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented
15:13:26 Sen Dunwell asked about refundable state income tax credit and rebates
15:15:08 Kendall Cotton asked about increasing percentages within module for better overall picture
15:15:53 Rep Hamilton
15:18:31 Rep Bedey commented on volatility
15:19:52 Sen Curdy referenced a sales tax proposal from the early 90s and interest in revenue generated from that if it had been approved
15:22:03 Sen Esp
15:22:32 Sen Pope
15:23:45 Rep Keogh asked clarification questions on utilizing the tool
15:24:23 Rep Jones
15:25:09 Sam Schaefer, LFD,
15:25:58 Dwaine Iverson
15:26:31 Rep Carlson asked about taxes and school funding

Potential Fiscal Risks

15:29:27 Amy Carlson, LFD, presented
15:48:09 Rep Jones
15:51:42 Sen Esp asked clarification questions on debt comparison chart
15:54:44 Sen McGillvray
15:57:12 Dwaine Iverson
15:58:56 Sen Esp
15:59:14 Rep Falk
16:01:48 Rep Jones
16:04:21 Sen Curdy

MARA Medicaid Model and Power BI Medicaid Provider Type Tool

16:06:24 Julia Hamilton, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented
16:21:52 Sen Ellis asked about traditional vs expansion populations within module
16:23:05 Rep Gillette
16:28:05 Rep Bedey
16:31:07 Sen Lenz
16:33:15 Rep Carlson asked about the discrepancies between presentation and module
16:34:20 Sen Pope asked about inflation

16:35:19 Rep Reksten asked about traditional vs expansion data funding sources
16:37:26 Josh Poulette, LFD, provided additional comments
16:38:38 Sen Dunwell
16:39:31 Rep Carlson
Recess until Friday, October 11
16:42:37 Reconvene 08:30:00