



## **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  
Dwaine Iverson  
Heather O'Loughlin

#### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

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

# **MINUTES LOG**

October 11, 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)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. John Esp (R)  
Rep. Bill Mercer @  
Dwaine Iverson, Public Member  
Lance Fourstar, Public Member  
Heather O'Loughlin, Public Member  
Kendall Cotton, Public Member

#### **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, Fiscal Analyst  
Jennifer Whitt, Secretary

**AGENDA** ([Attachment 1](#))

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

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

08:32:09 Chair Llew Jones called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

**North Plains Connector Project**

08:33:48 Brant Johnson, Regional Vice President of Grid United, presented  
08:55:06 Sen Cuffe  
08:55:38 Sen McGillvray asked about geomagnetic and natural storms and how they affect the grid  
08:57:08 Brant Johnson continued  
09:09:14 Sen Dunwell  
09:10:48 Rep Carlson asked about private land ownership and how that impacts the project  
09:17:22 Sen Pope  
09:19:52 Sen Ellis asked how one could measure the success of project

09:21:17 Rep Jones  
09:24:26 Sen Curdy  
09:39:10 Rep Bedey asked clarification on funding types  
09:39:51 Ethan Bergen, LFD, continued

#### **Local Government Model**

09:39:51 Ethan Bergen, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) Fiscal Analyst, presented  
09:41:53 Sen Esp asked about specific fund locations within module  
09:43:44 Rep Gillette asked about viewing properties of the module  
09:44:12 Sen Dunwell asked about data missing from some counties  
09:46:57 Rep Carlson asked revenue data questions  
09:47:39 Rep Bedey  
09:48:30 Rep Keogh  
09:49:14 Ethan Bergen, LFD, continued  
09:55:36 Heather O'Loughlin asked questions about the data  
09:58:46 Sen Esp  
09:59:05 Sen Ellis asked about local governments' reactions to project  
09:59:44 Amy Carlson, Director LFD, responded  
10:04:34 Rep Jones provided additional comments  
10:06:34 Sen Pope  
10:09:29 Sen Cuffe commented on the readability of the module  
10:11:36 Sen Esp  
10:11:51 Heather O'Loughlin commented on the diversity of data amongst communities  
10:13:35 Amy Carlson, LFD, responded  
10:13:55 Kendall Cotton asked about ability to break down and manipulate data  
10:15:13 Rep Bedey asked about the visibility on certain topics/revenues

#### **Break**

10:17:14 Reconvened at 10:31:34

#### **K12 Education Model, update on HB 949**

10:32:57 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented on module  
10:49:36 Sen Webber asked about module and consolidated school systems  
11:00:18 Sen Beard asked questions relating to enrollment and staffing  
11:01:23 Rep Carlson  
11:01:58 Sen Cuffe asked questions relating to home school vs private school vs public school  
11:03:35 Rep Bedey commented on enrollment trends  
11:05:30 Rep Smith asked questions relating to budget cuts and teacher retention  
11:08:27 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner of Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), responded  
11:09:18 Rep Smith asked more data questions  
11:11:01 Julia Pattin, LFD, continued  
11:21:28 Sen Pope asked funding forecasting questions

- 11:24:22 Sen Cuffe asked county retirement fund questions
- 11:30:43 Sen Beard asked about student funding regarding transferring counties
- 11:37:07 Rep Gillette asked about budgeted funds forecasting

**Property Tax Model Update and Simulations**

- 11:39:39 Kurt Swimley, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented
- 11:48:27 Sen Dunwell asked questions about residential property tax
- 11:49:39 Sen Pope
- 11:50:08 Kurt Swimley, LFD, continued
- 11:57:41 Sen Pope asked about inflation within data
- 11:59:50 Kurt Swimley, LFD, continued
- 12:02:22 Julia Pattin, LFD, continued presentation
- 12:07:01 Sen Pope asked clarification questions
- 12:07:39 Julia Pattin, LFD, continued
- 12:09:47 Rep Jones provided additional comments
- 12:13:11 Kurt Swimley, LFD, continued presentation
- 12:26:26 Rep Carlson provided comments on data dashboard tools
- 12:29:14 Rep Jones provided additional comments
- 12:30:48 Heather O'Loughlin asked about homestead exemptions
- 12:31:46 Kurt Swimley, LFD, continued
- 12:44:02 Rep Jones provided comments on tools available to legislators

**Lunch**

- 12:45:42 Reconvened at 13:28:54

**Statewide Data Governance and Management- Best Practices Discussion**

- 13:33:17 Amy Hawn Nelson, Director of Training and Technical Assistance with Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) with University of Pennsylvania
- 13:51:20 Adam Carpenter, Montana Chief Data Officer, presented
- 14:01:43 Amy Hawn Nelson commented on Adam Carpenter's presentation
- 14:03:47 Rep Jones commented on challenges that DLI is facing
- 14:04:21 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner of DLI, provided feedback
- 14:12:14 Rep Jones
- 14:12:58 Adam Carpenter
- 14:13:28 Sarah Swanson commented on collaboration with Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- 14:14:39 Rep Jones

**K12 Education Model, update on HB 949**

- 14:15:08 Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney with Legislative Services Division (LSD), provided update on HB 949
- 14:20:38 Rep Gillette asked clarification questions on use of programs
- 14:26:11 Amy Hawn Nelson, AISP, commented on how Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) data would be utilized with data sharing
- 14:28:26 Rep Jones
- 14:28:46 Adam Carpenter provided additional comments

14:34:28 Rep Bedey asked about specific statutory responsibility of Department of Administration (DOA) regarding HB 949  
14:36:02 Adam Carpenter responded  
14:41:48 Rep Bedey asked about next steps and future costs of data governance  
14:43:07 Adam Carpenter responded  
14:49:23 Sen Curdy  
14:51:48 Rep Jones commented on ability to securely store data  
14:53:12 Adam Carpenter  
14:55:35 Sen Curdy asked about natural disaster and how they affect data storage  
14:59:50 Sen Pope provided comments on overall governance and the hoarding of data by individual organizations  
15:02:17 Adam Carpenter  
15:02:42 Rep Bedey commented on purpose of HB 949 and the cooperation between the legislative and executive branches  
15:04:09 Rep Jones  
15:04:37 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner DLI, provided additional comments on data security and privacy  
15:07:41 Adam Carpenter

#### **PEW - MARA in National Context**

15:08:38 Mary Murphy, Pew Charitable Trust, Senior Director of Fiscal and Economic Policy  
15:22:24 Rep Hamilton  
15:23:58 Rep Jones  
15:24:46 Mary Murphy, Pew Charitable Trust, Senior Director of Fiscal and Economic Policy  
15:25:41 Amy Carlson, Director LFD, provided additional comments

#### **MARA Process and Model Overview**

15:27:23 Nick Van Brown, LFD, presented  
15:45:03 Rep Jones

#### **Committee Discussion**

15:50:14 Sen Esp commented on the work of the MARA committee  
15:51:37 Rep Brewster  
15:52:24 Sen Dunwell  
15:54:21 Rep Jones  
15:54:53 Rep Barker  
15:55:51 Sen Dunwell  
15:56:15 Sen Lenz  
15:57:30 Rep Gillette  
15:59:18 Rep Jones  
16:00:24 Sen Esp  
16:01:04 Sen Beard  
16:03:08 Nick Van Brown, LFD  
16:04:14 Rep Jones

16:04:59 Sen Cuffe  
16:06:37 Rep Jones  
16:06:52 Sen Ellis  
16:08:52 Sen Curdy  
16:10:09 Rep Barker  
16:11:27 Josh Poulette, LFD  
16:12:32 Rep Jones  
16:13:17 Josh Poulette, LFD  
16:13:49 Rep Jones  
16:13:57 Rep Carlson  
16:19:16 Dwaine Iverson  
16:19:47 Kendall Cotton  
16:20:35 Heather O'Loughlin  
16:21:45 Lance Fourstar  
16:26:38 Rep Reksten  
16:28:28 Sen Esp  
16:29:25 Rep Jones  
16:29:47 Sen Pope  
16:31:36 Rep Jones  
16:32:47 Amy Carlson, LFD  
16:38:38 Rep Brewster

**Public Comment**

16:39:20 None

**Committee Business and Next Steps**

16:39:25 Rep Jones

16:41:43 Sen Esp

**Adjourn**

16:42:16 Chair Jones adjourned the meeting.