

Education and Local Government

5-5-224, MCA provides:

The Education and Local Government interim committee acts a liaison with local governments and has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the following Executive Branch agencies and the entities attached to agencies for administrative purposes:

State Board of Education,
Board of Public Education,
Board of Regents of Higher Education, and
Office of Public Instruction.

The statute also states that the committee shall:

- (a) provide information to the board of regents in the following areas:
 - (i) annual budget allocations;
 - (ii) annual goal statement development;
 - (iii) long-range planning;
 - (iv) outcome assessment programs; and
 - (v) any other area that the committee considers to have significant educational or fiscal policy impact;
- (b) periodically review the success or failure of the university system in meeting its annual goals and long-range plans;
- (c) periodically review the results of outcome assessment programs;
- (d) develop mechanisms to ensure strict accountability of the revenues revenue and expenditures of the university system;
- (e) study and report to the legislature on the advisability of adjustments to the mechanisms used to determine funding for the university system, including criteria for determining appropriate levels of funding;
- (f) act as a liaison between both the legislative and executive branches and the board of regents; and
- (g) encourage cooperation between the legislative and executive branches and the board of regents;
- (h) promote and strengthen local government through recognition of the principle that strong communities, with effective, democratic governmental institutions, are one of the best assurances of a strong Montana;
- (i) bring together representatives of state and local government for consideration of common problems;
- (j) provide a forum for discussing state oversight of local functions, realistic local autonomy, and intergovernmental cooperation;
- (k) identify and promote the most desirable allocation of state and local government

functions, responsibilities, and revenue;

(l) promote concise, consistent, and uniform regulation for local government;

(m) coordinate and simplify laws, rules, and administrative practices in order to achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal and administrative relationships between and among state and local governments;

(n) review state mandates to local governments that are subject to 1-2-112 and 1-2-114 through 1-2-116;

(o) make recommendations to the legislature, executive branch agencies, and local governing bodies concerning:

(i) changes in statutes, rules, ordinances, and resolutions that will provide concise, consistent, and uniform guidance and regulations for local government;

(ii) changes in tax laws that will achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal relationships between levels of government;

(iii) methods of coordinating and simplifying competitive practices to achieve more orderly administrative relationships among levels of government; and

(iv) training programs and technical assistance for local government officers and employees that will promote effectiveness and efficiency in local government; and

(p) conduct interim studies as assigned.

Membership

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House Education,

House Local Government,

House Appropriations,

Senate Education and Cultural Resources,

Senate Local Government, and

Senate Finance.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

Rep. Joan Andersen (R)

RR1 Box 1012
Fromberg, MT 59029
Ph: 668-7405

Rep. Gary Branae (D)

415 Yellowstone Ave.
Billings, MT 59101
Wk: 657-1196, Hm: 245-2127
branae@earthlink.net

Rep. Tom Facey (D)

418 Plymouth St.
Missoula, MT 59801
Wk: 542-4070, Hm: 728-6814

Rep. Jeff Mangan (D)

PO Box 1196
Great Falls, MT 59403
Wk: 453-6784, Hm: 452-6966
jmangan@mountainpeaksinc.com

Rep. Gay Ann Masolo (R)

20 Buck Dr.
Townsend, MT 59644
Ph: 266-4261

Rep. Art Peterson (R)

1008 Poly Dr. Apt 2A
Billings, MT 59102
Wk: 657-1117, Hm: 245-2293
apeter333@aol.com

Senate Members

Sen. Edward Butcher (R)

PO Box 89
Winifred, MT 59489
Wk: 462-5615, Hm: 462-5627
senatorbutcher@aftco.com

Sen. Linda Nelson (D)

469 Griffin Road
Medicine Lake, MT 59247
Ph: 286-5611

Sen. William E. Glaser (R)

1402 Indian Creek Road
Huntley, MT 59037
Ph: 348-3000

Sen. Don Ryan (D)

2101 7th Ave. South
Great Falls, MT 59405
Ph: 761-3261
Ryan749@home.com

Sen. Alvin A. Ellis, Jr. (R)

HC 50 Box 4840
Red Lodge, MT 59068
Ph: 446-2778

Sen. Debbie Shea (D)

100 Moon Lake
Butte MT, 59701
Ph: 494-4708

Assigned Studies

HB 625 Interim study of school funding – in cooperation with the Governor's Office.

HJR 41 Study transfer of territory between school districts.

HJR 35 Interim study of prepaid college tuition (staff white paper).

Staff

Connie Erickson, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Eddy McClure, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division