

AN INTRODUCTION TO INTERIM COMMITTEES

2025-2026 INTERIM

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
MAY 2025

THE TWO PRIMARY GOALS

CONDUCT STUDIES

- Study bills go to the identified committee
- Study resolutions are ranked by a poll of lawmakers
- Legislative Council assigns study resolutions based on poll results and workload

PROVIDE AGENCY OVERSIGHT & MONITORING

- Administrative rule review
- Proposed legislation review
- Emerging issues
- Reviewing statutory reports and advisory councils

WHAT DO COMMITTEES LOOK LIKE?

- Appointed by leaders based on your requests
- Membership is made up from both parties
- Officers elected at first meeting
- Presiding officer and the vice-presiding officer are from opposite parties
- Staffed by Legislative Services Division

HOW DO COMMITTEES GET ORGANIZED?

- Staff prepares draft work plan and schedule
- Committee sets priorities, adopts final work plan and schedule

HOW ARE COMMITTEES FUNDED?

- Budget based on number of members, meetings, locations, and need for guest speakers or consulting services
- Funds allocated by Legislative Council
- Legislators receive pay and expenses for days involved in committee business

HOW ARE MEETINGS CONDUCTED?

- Presiding officer approves agenda, leads and moderates meetings
- Staff presents reports as requested
- Staff attorney reviews agency rules
- Invited speakers offer testimony
- Public comment is accepted at every meeting

WHAT'S THE STAFF ROLE?

- Nonpartisan
- Provide complete and objective information and research
- Develop work plans for committee consideration and guidance
- Manage interim committee work
- Research and legal support for all committee members
- Keep public informed

WHAT DO COMMITTEES DO?

- Act on matters within its jurisdiction
- Conduct assigned studies
- Study emerging issues/matters as determined by committee
- Monitor assigned agencies
- Develop legislation as appropriate
- Listen to the public's experiences with agencies

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES/PRODUCTS?

- Viable broad-based solutions to policy questions
- Knowledge and experience
- Relationships and rapport
- Groundwork for session
- Legal support
- Research documents, final reports, guides, and legislation

2025-2026 INTERIM COMMITTEES

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, & HUMAN SERVICES
(CFHHS)

8

MEMBERS

CFHHS conducts interim studies and reviews issues related to health and human services.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:
Dept. of Public Health and Human Services

CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
(CJOC)

4 LEGISLATORS

OTHER MEMBERS SET IN
STATUTE

The Criminal Justice Oversight Council is a bipartisan, interbranch body. Membership includes legislators, Department of Corrections leadership, and criminal justice stakeholders appointed by the Montana Supreme Court, the Attorney General, and the Governor.

The Council's membership is provided in [53-1-216, MCA](#).

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE
(EAIC)

8

MEMBERS

EAIC conducts interim studies and reviews issues related to economic development.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Dept. of Agriculture
Dept. of Labor and Industry
Dept. of Commerce
Dept. of Livestock
Division of Banking & Financial Services

State Auditor’s Office
Office of Economic Development
Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of Dept. of Revenue
Cannabis Control Division of Dept. of Revenue
Montana State Fund

EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE
(EDIC)

8

MEMBERS

EDIC conducts interim studies and reviews education policies, including periodic review of the university system.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

State Board of Education
Board of Public Education

Board of Regents
Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (ETIC)

8

MEMBERS

ETIC conducts interim studies and reviews a range of energy and technology-related topics in Montana.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Public Service Commission

Dept. of Public Service Regulation

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL (EQC)

12 LEGISLATORS

4 PUBLIC MEMBERS

1 NONVOTING MEMBER
REPRESENTING THE GOVERNOR

The EQC is a state legislative committee created by the 1971 Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The EQC conducts interim studies and reviews conditions and trends in the environment. This includes analysis of policy relating to ecological systems and the environment.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, & Dept. of Environmental Quality

LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE (LJIC)

8

MEMBERS

LJIC conducts interim studies and reviews issues related to law and justice policy.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Dept. of Justice
Dept. of Corrections

Judicial Branch
Office of State Public Defender

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE (LGIC)

8

MEMBERS

LGIC acts as a liaison with local governments, and provides a forum for discussing state oversight of local functions, realistic local autonomy and intergovernmental cooperation.

REVENUE INTERIM COMMITTEE (RIC)

8

MEMBERS

RIC conducts interim studies and reviews revenue issues. Their work includes revenue monitoring and estimating responsibilities, as well as preparation of a revenue estimate.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Dept. of Revenue

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE (SAVA)

8

MEMBERS

SAVA examines emerging issues related to state administration, such as public contracting, state information technology services, state employee health care benefits, etc.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Dept. of Administration
Public Retirement Systems
Military Affairs

Veterans affairs
Secretary of State
Commissioner of Political Practices

STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (STRC)

10

MEMBERS

The STRC acts as a liaison with tribal governments in Montana, encourages state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation, and conducts interim studies.

TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE (TIC)

8

MEMBERS

TIC conducts interim studies and reviews issues related to transportation policy.

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Dept. of Transportation

Dept. of Justice's Motor Vehicles Division

WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE (WPIC)

8*

MEMBERS

*2 MEMBERS
MUST SPECIALIZE IN
AGRICULTURE

The WPIC conducts interim studies and reviews a range of issues related to water quality and quantity.

OTHER COMMITTEES PENDING GOVERNOR APPROVAL

SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION (SFIC)

20

MEMBERS

12 LEGISLATORS

4 PUBLIC MEMBERS

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
PRESIDING OFFICER

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION

BOARD OF REGENTS PRESIDING
OFFICER

GOVERNOR

The SFIC is formed during each fifth interim pursuant to sections [5-20-301](#) and [20-9-309](#), MCA. The 2025-26 SFIC decennial study will reassess the educational needs and costs of the public schools, and may recommend changes to the school funding formula.

The 2025-26 SFIC will create the Innovation and Excellence in Education Working Group (IEEWG) to include representation from teachers, school administrators, school trustees, and parents. These voices will provide crucial input to the SFIC's decennial study process.

The Committee's membership and appropriation is provided in [HB 153 \(2025\)](#).

AGENCY OVERSIGHT:

Office of Public Instruction

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE (MUSIC)

8

MEMBERS

The Montana University System Investigation Committee will focus on investigating civil rights violations and acts of censorship committed by the Montana University System (MUS). The committee shall gather testimony from MT students on any civil rights violations or acts of censorship that the students have experienced or witnessed, and will make findings and recommendations for state and federal officials.

The committee may not meet more than three times, and shall complete its work by September 15, 2026

The Committee's membership is provided in [HB 284 \(2025\)](#).

GOVERNMENT EVIDENCE AND IMPACT COMMISSION (GEIC)

12

MEMBERS

6 LEGISLATORS

1 PUBLIC MEMBER APPOINTED
BY THE GOVERNOR

BUDGET DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF STATE
PUBLIC DEFENDER

2 DIRECTORS OF A STATE
AGENCY APPOINTED BY THE
GOVERNOR

The commission is charged with developing and recommending a system for the collection and integration of targeted data for use by the legislature and the executive branch in analyzing outcomes of the agency programs, effective use of state resources, and efficient administration of state government.

The system developed must allow policymakers to identify inefficient, redundant, and antiquated programs in state government.

The commission shall meet quarterly starting June 1, 2025, and shall complete its work by September 15, 2026.

The commission's membership and duties are provided in [HB 834 \(2025\)](#).

The commission is staffed by the Department of Administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE	LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE
<p>The Legislative Council is a statutory, bipartisan, legislative committee established in 1957. It provides ongoing leadership, direction, and foresight for the efficient operation and improvement of the Legislative Branch. It is the administrative committee for the Legislative Services Division.</p> <p>Oversees the Legislative Services Division</p>	<p>The Legislative Audit Committee is a bicameral and bipartisan standing committee of the Montana Legislature. The Audit Committee appoints, consults with, and advises the Legislative Auditor.</p>	<p>The Legislative Finance Committee is a permanent joint committee of the Montana Legislature. To find out other details associated with the Legislative Finance Committee, see the MCA 5-12-2. Legislative Finance Committee meets during the interim between sessions to review fiscal issues.</p> <p>Reviews fiscal issues, staffed by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and Division</p> <p>Oversees the Legislative Fiscal Division</p>
LEGISLATIVE CONSUMER COUNCIL	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLANNING COUNCIL [#]	
<p>The Legislative Consumer Committee appoints the Consumer Counsel, a position required by the Montana Constitution. The Consumer Counsel represents Montana public utility and transportation consumers before the PSC, state and federal courts, and administrative agencies in matters concerning public utility regulation.</p> <p>The committee is required to meet at least quarterly, and generally convenes more often.</p>	<p>The Information Technology Planning Council is responsible for reviewing and maintaining the Legislative Branch information technology plan, investigating new applications, designing methods for automation, developing system standards and identifying the needs and priorities of the Branch's information technology, and coordinating new applications with the statutory goals of the Legislative Branch: Title 5, chapter 11, part 4, MCA.</p>	