



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Pat Flowers
Derek Harvey
Matt Regier
Laura Smith
Sue Vinton

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jodee Etchart
Steve Fitzpatrick
Jonathan Karlen
Brandon Ler
Jennifer Lynch
Katie Sullivan

COMMITTEE STAFF

Jerry Howe- Executive Director
Todd Everts-Legislative Legal Director
Leah Hibbs-Secretary
Ania Alduenda-Secretary

MINUTES LOG

June 09, 2026
Room 154 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Minutes logs provide an annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of a meeting and the time at which a topic is presented or discussed, a motion made, or a vote taken. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion in the video. The minutes log is only a guide to the video of the meeting. The official record of the meeting is the video. Minutes logs can be accessed at <https://committees.legmt.gov> and videos can be accessed at <https://media.legmt.gov>.

For more information, please contact:

The Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for policy committees;
The Legislative Fiscal Division at 406-444-2986 for fiscal committees; or
The Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122 for the Legislative Audit Committee.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Sen. Matt Regier (R)
Sen. Laura Smith (D)
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Jerry Howe, Executive Director
Todd Everts, Legal Services Director
Leah Hibbs, Secretary
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

10:30:18 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Legislator Security

10:32:27 Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:37:08 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

10:37:12 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Session Security

10:37:45 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:39:45 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

Legislative Days

10:40:16 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:43:56 Sen. Sue Vinton

10:44:08 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Legislative Orientation

10:44:27 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Employee Burnout

10:47:00 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:50:35 Sen. Matt Regier

10:50:47 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Market Adjustments

10:51:48 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

10:57:35 Sen. Matt Regier
10:58:26 Sen. Laura Smith
10:59:44 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
11:00:17 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
11:01:27 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
11:02:37 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
11:03:40 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
11:04:00 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
11:05:20 Sen. Derek Harvey
11:06:44 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
11:06:54 Angie Carter, Finance Director, Legislative Branch
11:08:22 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
11:08:39 Sen. Sue Vinton

Legislative Subpoena Powers

11:09:00 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Legislative Constituent / Education Funds

11:10:56 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:24:16 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
11:24:39 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
11:25:51 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) Letter

11:26:01 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:27:13 Sen. Laura Smith
11:28:02 Sen. Matt Regier
11:28:11 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Office of Legislative Information Services (OLIS)
11:28:25 Audrey Hinman, Operations Services Manager, OLIS
11:29:36 Sen. Matt Regier
11:30:11 Audrey Hinman, OLIS
11:30:41 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
11:30:49 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
11:31:22 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

11:32:17 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
11:32:25 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
11:32:55 Todd Everts, Legal Director, LSD
11:33:05 Rachel Weiss, Research Director, LSD
11:35:07 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

Legislative Committee Rooms and Storage of Non-Legislative Meeting Recordings on Legislature's Website

11:35:42 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Information Desk / Public Comment

11:38:56 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Fiscal Note Process and Procedures Update

11:41:03 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:42:35 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
11:42:53 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
11:43:18 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Contracts Officer

11:43:28 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:45:35 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
11:47:51 Rachel Weiss, LSD
11:48:15 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers

Session Parking

11:49:23 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD

Construction Update

11:53:33 Joe Treim, Deputy Director, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), Appointed Manager, Mid-Range Renovation Project

11:58:04 **Recessed**

12:29:47 **Reconvened**

LEGAL OFFICE REPORTS

Legal Office-New Employee

12:29:52 Todd Everts, Legal Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Motion

12:30:18 Sen. Derek Harvey, moved not to change the price of the Annotations for 2027

Vote

12:30:35 Motion Passed unanimously by voice vote.
Rep Jonathan Karlen, Rep. Katie Sullivan and Rep. Brandon Ler voted proxy.

Litigation Update Spread Sheet

12:31:14 Jaret Coles, Deputy Legal Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
([See Exhibit 7](#))

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:34:10 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
12:34:56 Jaret Coles, LSD
12:35:22 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
12:35:37 Jaret Coles, LSD
12:35:52 Abby Cziok, Staff Attorney, LSD
12:36:52 Jaret Coles, LSD

RESEARCH OFFICE REPORT

12:38:27 Rachel Weiss, Research Director, Legislative Services Division

FINANCIAL OFFICE REPORT

New Employee Introduction

12:41:52 Angie Carter, Financial Director, Legislative Branch

Budget Development Update

12:45:20 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch

Program 20 Budget Status Report

12:46:47 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Program 21 Budget Status Report

12:49:58 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:51:15 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
12:51:28 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch

House Bill 1 Budget Status Report

12:52:02 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch
[EXHIBIT 11](#)

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES (OLIS)**OLIS 2025 / 2026 Project Updates**

12:53:32 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, OLIS
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:57:13 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
12:57:27 Dale Gow, OLIS

OLIS 2025 / 2026 Project Updates - Continued

12:57:53 Dale Gow, OLIS

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:03:24 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
13:03:46 Dale Gow, OLIS

OLIS 2025 / 2026 Project Updates - Continued

13:04:54 Audrey Hinman, Operations Service Manager, OLIS
13:13:22 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
13:13:41 Audrey Hinman, OLIS
13:14:06 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Services

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:16:33 Sen. Matt Regier
13:19:32 Dale Gow, OLIS

OLIS 2025 / 2026 Project Updates**Strategic Planning**

13:20:21 Dale Gow, Chief information Officer, Office of Information Services

RULES REPORT

13:22:46 Todd Everts, Legal Director, Legislative Services Division

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:24:05 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick

SESSION PLANNING, SESSION CALENDAR, SESSION PAY MATRIX

13:25:12 Todd Everts, Legal Director, Legislative Services Division
13:35:27 Kelly DaSilva, Human Resource Director, Legislative Services Division
[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Motion

13:36:31 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers made a motion to approve the pay matrix as proposed.

Vote

13:38:36 Carried unanimously by voice vote.
Rep. Jonathan Karlen, Rep Kate Sullivan and Rep. Brandon Ler by proxy.

13:37:46 **Recessed**

13:49:22 **Reconvened**

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:49:51 Sen. Matt Regier
13:50:08 Kelly DaSilva, Human Resource Director, Legislative Services (LSD)
13:51:52 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
13:53:15 Sen. Matt Regier
13:53:40 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
13:54:08 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
13:54:17 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
13:54:40 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
13:55:03 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
13:55:19 Kelly DaSilva, LSD
13:57:21 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
13:57:35 Amy Carlson, Legislative Fiscal Director, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
14:02:38 Angus McGiver, Legislative Auditor Director, Legislative Audit Division (LAD)
14:06:52 Todd Everts Legal Director, LSD
14:08:33 Kelly DaSilva, LSD
14:10:03 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick
14:10:21 Kelly DaSilva, LSD
14:11:56 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
14:12:19 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
14:12:30 Amy Carlson, LFD
14:14:25 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Services

Motion

14:15:37 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers made a motion to approve the rate increase to 7.4% as proposed.

Vote

14:16:13 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Jonathan Karlan, Rep. Katie Sullivan and Rep. Brandon Ler by proxy.

Motion

14:18:59 Sen. Laura Smith made a motion to have Legislative Services research the cost to fulfil the request from WPIC

Vote

14:19:17 Carried unanimously by voice vote.
Rep. Jonathan Karlen, Rep. Katie Sullivan and Rep. Brandon Ler voting by proxy

Motion

14:20:17 Sen. Derek Harvey made a motion for PD 176 constituent account draft be approved

Vote

14:20:29 Carried unanimously by voice vote
Rep. Jonathan Karlen, Rep. Katie Sullivan and Rep. Brandon Ler voting by proxy

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE

14:21:34 Angie Carter, Financial Director, Legislative Branch

Motion

14:22:34 Sen. Derek Harvey moved to Increase Education Account for Legislators from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for the remainder of the biennium.

Discussion on the Motion

14:23:47 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner
14:23:55 Angie Carter Finance Director, Legislative Branch
14:25:01 Sen. Laura Smith
14:25:28 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch
14:26:02 Dir. Jerry Howe, LSD
14:26:30 Sen. Matt Regier
14:26:43 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch
14:26:52 Vice Presiding Officer Pat Flowers
14:27:44 Sen. Sue Vinton
14:30:08 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch
14:31:06 Presiding Officer Kenneth Bogner

Motion

14:31:28 Sen. Derek Harvey moved to amend his original motion changing funds for Legislative Education Accounts from \$4,000 to \$3,000, adding an additional \$50,000 into the Education Fund and make it first come first serve.

Vote

14:32:11 Carried 11 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Sue Vinton voting no.

Rep. Jonathan Karlen, Rep Katie Sullivan and Rep. Brandon Ler voting by proxy

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

14:33:02 None

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:33:40