



LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Shane Morigeau
Vince Ricci
Barry Usher
Sue Vinton

HOUSE MEMBERS

Katie Fire Thunder
Steven Kelly
Braxton Mitchell
Amy Regier
Zooney Zephyr

COMMITTEE STAFF

Laura Sherley - Lead Staff
Julianne Burkhardt - Legal Staff
Abbie J.N. Cziok - Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 6, 2026
Capitol Room 152 & Zoom - Day 2
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:

Rep. Amy Regier, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Zooney Zephyr, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Katie Fire Thunder (D)
Rep. Steven Kelly (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D) - Via Zoom
Sen. Vince Ricci (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Sue Vinton (R) - Via Zoom

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Sherley, Lead Staff
Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff
Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:46:01 Presiding Officer Amy Regier called the meeting to order at 8:46 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON MARCH 5, 2026, ELKHORN TREATMENT CENTER TOUR
Tour Documents ([Attachment 3](#))**

08:46:30 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
08:46:51 Sen. Barry Usher
08:47:41 Sen. Vince Ricci
08:47:57 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (COR)

Follow-up to Committee Questions and Workgroup Update

08:48:29 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
08:48:47 Scott Eychner, Chief Executive Officer, Rehabilitative and Enterprise Division, COR
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
[EXHIBIT 13](#)
[EXHIBIT 14](#)
[EXHIBIT 15](#)
08:49:55 Megan Coy, Deputy Chief, Rehabilitative and Enterprise Division, COR
08:50:05 Morgan Davis, Compliance Specialist, Quality Assurance of Evidence Based Practices Unit, COR

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:57:50 Sen. Barry Usher
09:00:10 Scott Eychner, COR
09:06:00 Vice Presiding Officer Zoey Zephyr
(See Exhibit 9)
09:06:32 Scott Eychner, COR
09:06:57 Rep. Steven Kelly
09:07:29 Scott Eychner, COR
09:08:06 Sen. Barry Usher
09:08:27 Scott Eychner, COR

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

09:12:03 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 16](#)
09:12:51 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ): AGENCY UPDATE

09:13:14 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Sexual and Violent Offender Registry (SVOR)

- 09:14:02 Jamie Lavinder, SVOR Unit Supervisor, Division of Criminal Investigation, Crime Information Bureau, DOJ
- 09:31:14 Caitlin Williams, Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) Attorney, Division of Criminal Investigation, DOJ

Public Comment

- 09:39:53 Alan Doane, Legislative Liaison, Montana Attorney General's Office, DOJ

Committee Discussion / Questions

- 09:40:44 Rep. Steven Kelly
- 09:41:06 Jamie Lavinder, DOJ
- 09:41:16 Caitlin Williams, DOJ
- 09:41:51 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr
- 09:42:37 Caitlin Williams, DOJ
- 09:43:41 Jamie Lavinder, DOJ
- 09:46:38 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Sexual Assault Response Network (SARN) Program and Proposed Statutory Changes

- 09:47:09 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
- 09:47:29 Alan Doane, DOJ
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
- 09:49:06 Hope Stockwell, SARN Coordinator, DOJ
(See Exhibit 17)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
[EXHIBIT 19](#)
[EXHIBIT 20](#)

Public Comment

- 10:02:35 Suzanne Anders, Supervisor, Office of Victim Services, DOJ
- 10:02:53 Whitney Brothers, Forensic Nurse Coordinator St. Peter's Health & Member, SARN Committee
- 10:05:41 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association
- 10:08:03 Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association & Executive Director, Montana County Attorney Association
- 10:10:41 Anthony Hutchings, Detective Captain, Bozeman Police Department
- 10:12:55 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting via zoom.
- 10:12:59 Shawn Mayo, Assistant Chief, Billings Police Department
- 10:15:23 Kelsen Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- 10:19:28 Benjamin Uhlich, President, Holy Rosary Hospital in Miles City & Member, SARN Committee

Committee Discussion / Questions

- 10:21:14 Sen. Barry Usher
- 10:21:39 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
(See Exhibit 20)

Motion

10:22:54 Sen. Barry Usher moved to adopt the proposed draft language from DOJ. (See Exhibit 20)

Discussion on the Motion

10:23:20 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:23:34 Rep. Steven Kelly
10:24:31 Sen. Sue Vinton
10:24:44 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:25:51 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
10:29:24 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:29:51 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
10:31:39 Benjamin Uhlich, SARN Committee
10:31:54 Sen. Vince Ricci
10:32:16 Whitney Brothers, SARN Committee
10:33:07 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr
10:35:00 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
10:38:24 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:38:32 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
10:39:46 Sen. Barry Usher
10:39:53 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
10:40:01 Rep. Steven Kelly
10:41:40 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Substitute Motion

10:41:54 Sen. Barry Usher moved to accept the proposal as drafted and to have DOJ and LSD staff work to draft language for the committee's consideration.

Discussion on the Motion

10:42:31 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Vote

10:42:44 Carried unanimous by voice vote. Sen. Shane Morigeau by proxy.

10:43:11 **Recessed**

11:01:19 **Reconvened**

7-HYDROXYMITRAGYNINE (KRATOM)**Policy Responses in Other States**

11:01:20 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:01:34 Jessica Guarino, Policy Associate, Civil and Criminal Justice Program, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

[EXHIBIT 21](#)

Public Comment

11:18:22 EJ Redding
11:21:22 Mac Haddow, Senior Fellow on Public Policy, American Kratom Association (AKA)

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:28:36 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
11:28:53 Mac Haddow, AKA
11:30:57 Sen. Barry Usher
11:31:09 Mac Haddow, AKA
11:35:02 Rep. Steven Kelly
11:36:04 Jessica Guarino, NCSL
11:36:27 Mac Haddow, AKA
11:36:31 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
11:36:37 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
11:36:53 Mac Haddow, AKA
11:37:46 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
11:38:09 Jessica Guarino, NCSL
11:38:31 Sen. Barry Usher
11:41:49 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:41:56 **Recessed**
13:07:58 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23 - STUDY OF YOUTH COURT LAWS

Study Background

13:07:58 Sen. Shane Morigeau rejoined the meeting via zoom.
13:07:59 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:08:48 Rep. James Reavis, HD 47
[EXHIBIT 22](#)
[EXHIBIT 23](#)

State Agency and Stakeholder Panel

13:24:13 Renae Novak, Bureau Chief, Children's Mental Health Bureau, Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
13:32:14 Myshell Lyday, Public Defender, Center of Defense Excellence (CODE) Bureau, Office of the State Public Defender (OPD)
13:46:27 Hallie Bishop, Deputy County Attorney, Yellowstone County (See Exhibit 23)
13:55:31 Steve Ray, Warden, Pine Hills Correctional Facility, COR
13:57:49 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:58:12 Rep. Steven Kelly
(See Exhibit 23)

13:58:49 Myshell Lyday, OPD
14:00:53 Rep. James Reavis
14:04:42 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr
14:05:48 Hallie Bishop, Yellowstone County
14:07:02 Rep. James Reavis
14:09:01 Sen. Barry Usher
14:09:44 Myshell Lyday, OPD
14:11:06 Hallie Bishop, Yellowstone County
14:15:36 Rep. James Reavis
14:22:07 Rep. Steven Kelly
(See Exhibit 23)
14:23:11 Hallie Bishop, Yellowstone County
14:25:09 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting via zoom.
14:25:42 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

14:25:56 **Recessed**
14:40:22 **Reconvened**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN LJIC JURISDICTION

14:40:23 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:40:44 Daniel Wood
[EXHIBIT 24](#)
14:43:22 Amanda McKnight, Founder, 406 Revolutionized
[EXHIBIT 25](#)

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

14:45:37 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:46:26 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 26](#)
14:47:06 Rep. Steven Kelly
14:48:07 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr
14:50:03 Sen. Barry Usher
14:54:22 Sen. Vince Ricci
14:54:55 Sen. Barry Usher
14:55:00 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:55:31 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr
14:56:21 Rep. Steven Kelly
14:57:16 Laura Sherley, LSD
14:57:39 Sen. Barry Usher
14:58:04 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
14:58:19 Laura Sherley, LSD
(See [Exhibit 5](#) and Exhibit 20)
14:59:02 Rep. Steven Kelly

15:01:36 Sen. Barry Usher
15:03:07 Sen. Sue Vinton
15:03:36 Rep. Steven Kelly
15:07:14 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
15:07:28 Laura Sherley, LSD
15:08:07 Sen. Barry Usher
15:08:18 Vice Presiding Officer Zoey Zephyr
15:08:37 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:08:57