



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mary Ann Dunwell
Forrest Mandeville
Jeremy Trebas
Daniel Zolnikov

HOUSE MEMBERS

Pete Elverum
Alanah Griffith
Shane Klakken
Greg Oblander
Jolanda Songer
Courtenay Sprunger

COMMITTEE STAFF

Maxwell Parson - Lead Staff
Maddie Krezowski - Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

April 02, 2026
Room 154
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. Forrest Mandeville, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Alanah Griffith, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Pete Elverum (D)
Rep. Shane Klakken (R)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff
Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:00:50 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 50: PRESENTATION ON THE UNIFORM COMMON OWNERSHIP INTEREST ACT (UCOIA)

09:01:50 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:13:54 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

09:15:39 Maddie Krezowski, LSD

09:16:27 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

09:17:21 Maddie Krezowski, LSD

Public Comment

09:19:22 Susan Swimley, Attorney

09:25:04 **Recessed**

09:33:50 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 50: PANEL WITH THE BETTER BAR & UNIFORM LAW COMMISSION (ULC) ON THE UCOIA

09:34:25 Carl Lisman, ULC Commissioner (Vermont) & Former ULC President

09:39:01 Jane Sternecky, Legislative Counsel, ULC

09:39:55 Stephanie Baucus, Attorney, Moulton Bellingham, P.C.

09:49:19 Susan Swimley, Attorney & Principal, Swimley Law

09:54:55 Carl Lisman, ULC

Public Comment

09:58:28 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

09:58:48 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

09:59:43 Susan Swimley, Swimley Law

10:01:47 Stephanie Baucus, Moulton Bellingham, P.C.

10:04:41 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
10:06:42 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
10:07:45 Susan Swimley, Swimley Law
10:09:50 Rep. Pete Elverum
10:11:28 Stephanie Baucus, Moulton Bellingham, P.C.
10:14:29 Susan Swimley, Swimley Law
10:15:34 Carl Lisman, ULC
10:16:12 Jane Sternecky, ULC
10:16:28 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
10:17:01 Susan Swimley, Swimley Law
10:17:23 Stephanie Baucus, Moulton Bellingham, P.C.
10:19:28 Carl Lisman, ULC
10:20:05 Jane Sternecky, ULC
10:20:25 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
10:21:03 Stephanie Baucus, Moulton Bellingham, P.C.
10:23:50 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
10:24:15 Susan Swimley, Swimley Law
10:25:08 Rep. Pete Elverum
10:25:30 Stephanie Baucus, Moulton Bellingham, P.C.
10:27:24 Susan Swimley, Swimley Law
10:28:20 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:29:25 Carl Lisman, ULC
10:31:17 Jane Sternecky, ULC
10:32:56 Susan Swimley, Swimley Law
10:33:05 Stephanie Baucus, Moulton Bellingham, P.C.
10:36:08 Carl Lisman, ULC
10:37:17 Jane Sternecky, ULC

10:37:45 **Recessed**

10:48:56 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 50: PANEL WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES ON THE UNIFORM COMMON INTEREST OWNERSHIP ACT (UCIOA)

10:49:23 Bill Gowen, Past President, Montana Land Title Association (MLTA) & Vice President and County Manager, Helena Abstract & Title Co.
10:50:03 Daniel Cox, Government Affairs Director, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)
10:50:31 Lindsay Freitas, Property Manager, Saddle Peak Properties LLC
10:51:29 Zachary Oakland, Director, Oakland Companies
10:52:40 Bill Gowen, MLTA & Helena Abstract & Title Co.
10:59:44 Daniel Cox, MAR

11:01:11 Lindsay Freitas, Saddle Peak Properties, LLC
11:02:36 Zachary Oakland, Oakland Companies

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:19:54 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
11:21:07 Bill Gowen, MLTA & Helena Abstract & Title Co.
11:24:51 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
11:26:41 Zachary Oakland, Oakland Companies
11:30:39 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
11:32:17 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
11:33:52 Zachary Oakland, Oakland Companies
11:35:49 Rep. Greg Oblander
11:37:02 Bill Gowen, MTLA & Helena Abstract & Title Co.
11:38:52 Lindsay Freitas, Saddle Peak Properties, LLC
11:40:01 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
11:42:12 Lindsay Freitas, Saddle Peak Properties, LLC
11:43:20 Bill Gowen, MLTA & Helena Abstract & Title Co.

Public Comment

11:45:29 Adrienne Cotton, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:48:30 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
11:48:42 Adrienne Cotton, MBIA

UPDATE ON THE WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE'S EXEMPT WELL STUDY

11:50:12 Toni Henneman, Lead Staff, Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) & Deputy Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Public Comment

11:58:48 Adrienne Cotton, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:59:15 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
12:00:07 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
12:05:38 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov left the meeting.
12:08:01 Toni Henneman, WPIC, LSD
12:10:12 Adrienne Cotton, MBIA
12:10:57 Rep. Greg Oblander
12:14:08 Toni Henneman, WPIC, LSD
12:15:59 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
12:16:19 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
12:17:31 Toni Henneman, WPIC, LSD

12:18:39 **Recessed**
13:23:46 **Reconvened**

PANEL WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES & NON-PROFITS ON FEDERAL GRANT ACQUISITION

13:24:26 Heather Grenier, President & CEO, Human Resource Development Council (HRDC)
13:31:26 Lorianne Burhop, Policy Director, Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA)
13:42:09 Stephanie Morton, Executive Director, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB)
13:51:16 Tim VanReken, Executive Director, Headwaters Tech Hub (HTH)
14:00:00 Tori Matejovsky, Executive Director, Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:10:45 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:11:29 Stephanie Morton, HMHB
14:14:33 Tori Matejovsky, GNDC
14:16:35 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:17:37 Tim VanReken, HTH
14:20:31 Rep. Pete Elverum
14:20:54 Tim VanReken, HTH
14:23:01 Heather Grenier, HRDC
14:24:35 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:25:14 Tori Matejovsky, GNDC

Public Comment

14:27:17 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:27:36 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:29:31 Heather Grenier, HRDC
14:30:42 Tim VanReken, HTH

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28: PRESENTATION ON COMPETITIVE GRANTS

14:32:30 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
14:44:17 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville left the meeting and Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith assumed the role of Presiding Officer.

Public Comment

14:47:11 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:47:40 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:49:27 Sen. Forrest Mandeville resumed the role of Presiding Officer.

14:49:30 Jerry Grebenc, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
14:51:12 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28: PRESENTATION ON OTHER STATES' GRANT SYSTEMS

14:51:47 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:03:31 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

Public Comment

15:03:47 None

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28: UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET, PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILTs)

15:04:32 Ethan Bergen, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:15:04 Rep. Pete Elverum
15:15:19 Ethan Bergen, LFD
15:17:06 Rep. Shane Klakken
15:17:15 Ethan Bergen, LFD
15:19:09 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:19:17 Ethan Bergen, LFD
15:19:39 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:21:23 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:22:05 Rep. Pete Elverum
15:22:28 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:22:36 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, LSD

Public Comment

15:23:25 None

LITIGATION UPDATE, MAID CASE

15:23:57 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:28:22 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

Public Comment

15:28:43 Jerry Grebenc, Montana League of City and Towns

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Legislation Discussion and Requests

15:29:45 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:31:20 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:33:58 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:36:11 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:38:42 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:39:11 Maxwell Parson, LSD
15:40:05 Rep. Pete Elverum
15:41:21 Maxwell Parson, LSD
15:43:20 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:43:54 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:45:52 Maxwell Parson, LSD
15:47:23 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:47:50 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:48:02 Rep. Shane Klakken
15:51:06 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:51:58 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:52:30 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:53:15 Rep. Pete Elverum
15:54:15 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:55:07 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
15:56:40 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
15:57:37 Maxwell Parson, LSD
16:01:02 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
16:01:34 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
16:02:23 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
16:02:47 Maxwell Parson, LSD

Interim Timeline Overview

16:03:44 Maxwell Parson, LSD
16:07:22 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

Motion

16:09:10 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith moved to reschedule the meeting from September 10, 2026, to September 17, 2026.

Discussion on the Motion

16:09:01 None

Vote

16:09:03 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Introduction of Legal Staff

16:10:28 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, LSD

16:10:49 Emily McKay, Legal Staff, LSD

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

16:11:29 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

WRAP UP

16:16:33 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:16:53 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:18:13