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CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE
69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS	HOUSE MEMBERS	COMMITTEE STAFF
John Esp	Melody Cunningham	Milly Allen – Lead Staff
Dennis Lenz	Jodee Etchart - Chair	Emily McKay – Legal Staff
Cora Neumann	SJ Howell - Vice Chair	Maddie Krezowski – Legal Staff
Mike Yakawich	George Nikolakakos	Jolanda Songer – Research Assistant
	Melissa Nikolakakos	

MINUTES LOG

September 24, 2026
Zoom Only
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. SJ Howell, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Melody Cunningham (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)
Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart, Presiding Officer (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Cora Neumann (D)
Sen. Mike Yakawich (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Milly Allen, Lead Staff
Emily McKay, Legal Staff
Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer, Research Assistant

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH MANAGEMENT: JERRY HOWE, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • ANGUS MACIVER, LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR • AMY CARLSON, LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST • TODD EVERTS, LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTOR • DALE GOW, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER • RACHEL WEISS, RESEARCH DIRECTOR • ANGIE CARTER, FINANCIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR • KELLY DASILVA, HR DIRECTOR

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST – Zoom only

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

00:00:00 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW, FORMAL OBJECTIONS - MAR 2026-48.1, MAR 2026-847.1, AND MAR 2026-533.1

00:01:25 Emily McKay, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 1
EXHIBIT 2
EXHIBIT 3
EXHIBIT 4
EXHIBIT 5
EXHIBIT 6

Committee Questions / Discussion

00:04:19 Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos
00:06:47 Rep. SJ Howell
00:08:19 Rep. Melody Cunningham
00:08:43 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
00:09:33 Emily McKay, LSD
00:09:58 Sen. John Esp joined the Zoom meeting.

Public comment

00:09:44 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

00:10:15 Sen. Dennis Lenz
00:10:30 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
00:12:01 Sen. John Esp
00:12:36 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 00:13:13