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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	Maddie Krezowski – Legal Staff
Cora Neumann	SJ Howell - Vice Chair	Emily McKay – Legal Staff
Mike Yakawich	George Nikolakakos	Jolanda Songer – Research Assistant
	Melissa Nikolakakos	
	Jolanda Songer	

MINUTES LOG – DAY 2

July 09, 2026
Room 152 & 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:

Rep. Jodee Etchart, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. SJ Howell, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)
Sen. Mike Yakawich (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Melody Cunningham (D)
Sen. Cora Neumann (D)
Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Milly Allen, Lead Staff
Emily McKay, 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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
09:00:14 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

SJ 48: MARIJUANA DATA DASHBOARD AND REVIEW OF PROVISIONAL DRAFT LEGISLATION
Marijuana Data Dashboard Options
09:01:24 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT 22

Marijuana Data Dashboard Update
09:04:08 Dan Kayser, Data Analyst, LSD
EXHIBIT 23

Review of Second Provisional Draft (SJ 48 1.2)
09:15:55 Milly Allen, LSD
EXHIBIT 24

Committee Questions / Discussion
09:19:36 Sen. Mike Yakawich
09:20:51 Milly Allen, LSD
(See Exhibit 24)
09:23:05 Sen. John Esp
09:23:19 Dan Kayser, LSD
09:24:34 Milly Allen, LSD
09:25:24 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
09:25:45 Dan Kayser, LSD
09:26:55 Sen. John Esp
09:27:49 Sen. Mike Yakawich
09:28:17 Dan Kayser, LSD
09:30:01 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

Public Comment
09:30:45 Leanna Troesh
09:35:37 Ben Cort, NRT Behavioral Health

Committee Questions / Discussion
09:39:12 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
09:39:34 Milly Allen, LSD
09:42:01 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
09:42:55 Sen. John Esp

SJ 48: REVIEW OF PROVISIONAL DRAFT LEGISLATION - MARIJUANA PREVENTION EDUCATION - Continued
Review of Second Provisional Draft (SJ 48 2.2)
09:46:10 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT 25

Committee Questions / Discussion
09:50:37 Sen. Mike Yakawich
09:52:50 Milly Allen, LSD
09:55:35 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
09:55:52 Milly Allen. LSD
09:56:52 Sen. John Esp
09:57:39 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
09:58:43 Sen. Mike Yakawich
09:59:48 Milly Allen, LSD

Public Comment
10:00:47 Leanna Troesh
10:03:53 Joanna Strongarm Cárdenas, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes, Polson
10:07:23 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory
10:12:50 Ben Cort, NRT Behavioral Health

10:18:06 **Recessed**
10:34:16 **Reconvened**

WORK SESSION
Study Findings for Committee Reports
10:35:16 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 9)

Committee Questions / Discussion
10:48:59 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
10:49:38 Emily McKay, Legal Staff, LSD
10:49:57 Milly Allen, LSD
10:50:55 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
10:51:20 Sen. John Esp
10:52:23 Milly Allen, LSD
EXHIBIT 26
(See Exhibit 7)
10:53:20 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
10:53:37 Sen. John Esp
10:54:07 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

10:54:55 Sen. Dennis Lenz
10:55:28 Sen. Cora Neumann left the meeting. Check time
10:56:24 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
10:57:45 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
10:57:54 Sen, John Esp
10:58:20 Rep. G. Nikolakakos
10:59:22 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

Motion
11:01:39 Sen. John Esp moved to initiate drafting for numbers 1-10 and 13 (See Exhibit 7, Page 2).

Vote
11:10:05 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion
11:02:48 Sen. John Esp moved to initiate drafting for number 11 (See Exhibit 7, Page 2).

Discussion on the Motion
11:03:46 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell
11:04:58 Rep. G. Nikolakakos
11:05:14 Sen. Dennis Lenz
11:05:21 Sen. John Esp

Vote
12:16:22 Carried 5 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Cunningham, Rep. Howell, Sen. Neumann, Sen. Yakawich voting no.
Rep. Cunningham, Sen. Neumann by proxy

Motion
11:08:05 Sen. John Esp moved to initiate drafting for number 12 (See Exhibit 7, Page 2).

Vote:
11:13:26 Carried 6 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Cunningham, Rep. Howell, Sen. Neumann voting no.
Rep. Cunningham, Sen. Neumann by proxy

HJ 26: REVIEW OF PROVISIONAL DRAFT LEGISLATION - GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP
Review of Fourth Provisional Draft (HJ 26 1.4)
11:10:32 Milly Allen, LSD
EXHIBIT 27

Suggested Edits for HJ 26 1.4

EXHIBIT 28

11:20:41 Bruce Spencer, Lawyer

11:16:09 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

(See Exhibit 28)

11:16:29 Rep. Brian Close

Public Comment

11:41:35 Kristen Page-Nei, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

EXHIBIT 29

11:47:47 Patrick Kelley, Alzheimer Association

EXHIBIT 30

11:49:34 Bruce Spencer

11:50:28 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart resumed the Chair.

11:51:03 Beth Russo, Government Affairs Director, AARP

11:56:28 Christa Gabriel, Disability Rights Montana

Committee Questions / Discussion

11:58:15 Sen. John Esp

11:59:31 Sen. Dennis Lenz

12:01:44 Sen. Mike Yakawich

12:02:29 Bruce Spencer

12:03:13 Rep. Brian Close

12:03:46 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

12:04:20 Sen. Dennis Lenz

12:04:53 Milly Allen, LSD

12:08:49 Sen. John Esp

12:09:57 Sen. Dennis Lenz

12:10:22 Milly Allen, LSD

12:11:30 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

12:13:20 Sen. Dennis Lenz

12:14:00 Sen. John Esp

12:14:33 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart

12:14:53 Bruce Spencer

12:18:59 Milly Allen, LSD

12:20:05 Rep. Brian Close

12:21:40 Vice Presiding Officer SJ Howell

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE THAT IS NOT ON THIS AGENDA

12:22:34 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

12:23:22 Sen. Mike Yakawich
12:23:31 Milly Allen, LSD
12:23:48 Sen. John Esp
12:25:56 Milly Allen, LSD
12:26:04 Jolanda Songer, LSD

12:28:23 **Recessed**
14:02:05 **Reconvened**

SJ 37: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT IN MONTANA
Presentation

14:02:27 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT 31
EXHIBIT 32

Public Comment

14:21:06 Ben Cort, NRT Behavioral Health
14:25:06 Joanna Cárdenas, Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes, Polson
14:28:57 Dr. Chris Cutter, NRT Montana
14:34:43 Michael Giresi, Chief Clinical Officer, Adolescent Treatment Programs
14:42:13 Sierra Riesberg, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:44:10 Sen. Mike Yakawich

WORK SESSION - Continued

14:46:12 Presiding Officer Jodee Etchart
14:48:17 Milly Allen, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:50:04 Sen. Dennis Lenz

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:50:33