



## **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 5, 2026  
Capitol Room 154 & Zoom - Day 1  
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**

08:30:42 Presiding Officer Amy Regier called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

### **OPENING REMARKS**

08:31:16 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA WAREHOUSE: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

08:32:09 Kayla Bragg, Executive Director, Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

08:32:26 Janice Fries, Director, Statistical Analysis Center, MBCC  
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

08:32:38 Adam Carpenter, Chief Data Officer, Department of Administration (DOA)  
(See Exhibit 1)

### **Public Comment**

08:56:27 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

### **Committee Discussion / Questions**

08:58:07 Rep. Steven Kelly

08:59:13 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC

09:00:01 Adam Carpenter, DOA

### **BUFFER ZONE LAW**

09:00:43 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

09:01:27 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 2](#)  
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

### **Input from Montana Stakeholders**

09:02:51 Kurt Sager, Colonel, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)

09:10:28 Brett Petty, Chief, Helena Police Department & Legislative Chairman, Montana Association of Chiefs of Police (MACOP)

09:14:16 Dan Smith, Executive Director, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)  
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

09:17:19 Leo Dutton, Sheriff and Coroner, Lewis & Clark County & Secretary-Treasurer, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

### **Public Comment**

09:20:16 Shelby DeMars, MPPA

\*An error in the recording occurred from 9:21:16-9:21:18.

09:22:27 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

09:24:32 Henry Seaton, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU of Montana)

### **Committee Discussion / Questions**

09:26:14 Sen. Barry Usher

09:26:36 Col. Kurt Sager, MHP

09:29:23 Chief Brett Petty, MACOP

09:30:06 Sheriff Leo Dutton, MSPOA  
 09:31:54 Sen. Vince Ricci  
 09:32:17 Col. Kurt Sager, MHP  
 09:35:42 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
 09:36:44 Col. Kurt Sager, MHP  
 09:38:32 Presiding Officer Amy Regier  
 09:44:54 Rep. Steven Kelly  
 09:46:42 Henry Seaton, ACLU of Montana  
 09:51:30 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr  
 09:52:29 Col. Kurt Sager, MHP  
 09:54:42 Chief Brett Petty, MACOP  
 10:01:28 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder  
 10:01:49 Shelby DeMars, MPPA  
 10:04:10 Chief Brett Petty, MACOP  
 10:05:27 Col. Kurt Sager, MHP  
 10:08:53 Julianne Burkhardt, Legal Staff, LSD  
 10:11:13 Rep. Braxton Mitchell  
 10:12:02 Chief Brett Petty, MACOP  
 10:13:07 Rep. Steven Kelly  
 10:14:53 Chief Brett Petty, MACOP

**COMMITTEE LEGISLATION**

**Provisional Draft 1: Revise Laws Related to Public Safety Agencies Conducting Background Investigations**

10:15:39 Presiding Officer Amy Regier  
 10:15:57 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

**Public Comment**

10:21:07 Timothy Allred, Executive Director, Public Safety Officer Standards and Training Council (POST)  
 10:22:34 Nanette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)  
 10:24:43 Al Smith, Executive Director, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)  
 (See Exhibit 5)

**Committee Discussion / Questions**

10:29:51 Vice Presiding Officer Zooey Zephyr  
 10:30:51 Al Smith, MTLA  
 (See Exhibit 5)  
 10:31:46 Presiding Officer Amy Regier  
 10:31:49 Laura Sherley, LSD

**Motion**

10:32:01 Sen. Barry Usher moved to approve Provisional Draft 1 as a committee bill.

**Discussion on the Motion**

10:32:24 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr

10:33:09 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

**Vote**

10:33:16 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:33:35 **Recessed**

10:46:31 **Reconvened**

**OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR (CAO): 2025 WORKLOAD STUDY**

10:46:37 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

10:46:44 Dave McAlpin, Court Administrator, CAO  
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

**Committee Discussion / Questions**

11:00:48 Sen. Barry Usher

11:00:50 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting via Zoom.

11:01:12 Dave McAlpin, CAO

11:04:03 Rep. Steven Kelly

11:04:44 Dave McAlpin, CAO

**BAIL BONDS AND REMOTE APPEARANCES: HOSTED DISCUSSIONS**

**Stakeholder Panel Discussion on Remote Appearances**

11:05:17 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:06:43 Hon. Matthew Cuffe, 19th Judicial District Court Judge, Lincoln County

11:07:02 Hon. Michael Swingley, Justice of the Peace, Lewis and Clark County

11:07:12 Hon. Maureen O'Connor, City Judge, Stevensville

11:07:21 Myshell Lyday, Public Defender, Center of Defense Excellence (CODE) Bureau,  
Office of the State Public Defender (OPD)

**Committee Discussion / Questions**

11:43:11 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

11:43:36 Rep. Steven Kelly

11:44:11 Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Lincoln County

11:47:43 Hon. Mike Swingley, Lewis and Clark County

11:52:08 Myshell Lyday, OPD

11:52:19 Sen. Barry Usher

11:55:08 Vice Presiding Officer Zooley Zephyr

11:55:26 Hon. Mike Swingley, Lewis and Clark County

11:55:40 Rep. Braxton Mitchell

11:55:49 Myshell Lyday, OPD  
11:58:19 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder  
11:59:23 Myshell Lyday, OPD

**Stakeholder Panel Discussion on Bail Bonds**

12:02:03 Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Lincoln County  
12:02:57 Hon. Maureen O'Connor, Stevensville  
12:15:01 Myshell Lyday, OPD  
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

**Public Comment**

12:21:54 John Looney, President, Montana Bail Agents Association (MTBAA)  
12:30:46 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

**Committee Discussion / Questions**

12:31:46 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder  
12:32:03 John Looney, MTBAA  
12:38:44 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER LJIC JURISDICTION**

12:39:17 May Simmons, Lake County Resident  
12:41:32 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

**IN RECESS UNTIL MARCH 6, 2026**

Recessed: 12:41:39