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Law and Justice Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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AGENDA

July 14, 2026
State Capitol, Room 154 and Zoom

PLEASE NOTE:

- All times are approximate; some agenda items may take more or less time than allotted.
- The agenda may be adjusted or paused for breaks at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- See page 3 of this agenda for information on accessibility and public participation.

8:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
Chair Regier

- Interim committee review of agency bills – *Laura Sherley, Committee Staff, LSD*

8:05 a.m. **Agency Oversight:** Department of Corrections responses to committee questions, agency updates, and review of agency legislative proposals
Eric Strauss, Director
Mitch Couture, Indigenous Programming Liaison, Dept. of Corrections

- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee
- *Potential Action item:* Authorize drafting of agency bills

9:00 a.m. **Correctional Oversight**: Review of provisional draft committee legislation and insight from national experts

Provisional draft legislation - *Laura Sherley, Committee Staff, LSD*

- (**LJIC-PD5**): Creating an independent office of corrections ombudsman

Insight from national experts
Michelle Deitch, Director, Prison and Jail Innovation Lab
Alycia Welch, Associate Director, Prison and Jail Innovation Lab

- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee
- *Potential action item:* revise/approve LJIC-PD5, if wanted

9:45 a.m. **Break**

10:00 a.m. **Criminal Justice Data Warehouse:** Implementation update
Kayla Bragg, Executive Director, Montana Board of Crime Control
Janice Fries, Statistical Analysis Center Director, Montana Board of Crime Control
Adam Carpenter, Chief Data Officer, Department of Administration

- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

10:30 a.m. **Montana Sexual Assault Treatment Association**
Hal Lewis, MSW LCSW, Billings

- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

11:00 a.m. **DUI and Child Endangerment Laws**: Review of provisional draft committee legislation
Julianne Burkhardt, Staff Attorney, LSD
- (**LJIC-PD4**): Generally revising laws related to criminal endangerment and DUIs
  - Public comment* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
  - *Potential action item:* revise/approve LJIC-PD4, if wanted

11:30 a.m. **Administrative Rule Review**
Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Attorney, LSD
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

11:45 a.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **7-Hydroxymitragynine:** A comparison of synthetic and natural kratom leaf products
Dr. Doug Harrington, State Medical Officer, Dept. of Public Health and Humans Services
Stacey Campbell, PHSD Administrator, Dept. of Public Health and Humans Services
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

1:30 p.m. **Agency Oversight:** Review of agency legislative proposals from the Office of the State Public Defender
Koan Mercer, Director, The Office of the State Public Defender
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee
- *Potential Action item:* Authorize drafting of agency bills

2:15 p.m. **HJ 32 – Study of Advanced Investigator Qualifications for Law Enforcement:** Costs and data associated with advanced law enforcement training
Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association Representative
Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

2:45 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Committee Legislation:** Review of updated provisional draft committee legislation
Laura Sherley, Committee Staff, LSD
- (**LJIC-PD2.2**): Revise laws related to the Sexual Assault Response Network program and committee
- (**LJIC-PD3.2**): Creating the offense of unlawful encroachment on a first responder
  - Public comment* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
  - *Potential action item:* revise/approve LJIC-PD2.2 and/or LJIC-PD3.2, if wanted

3:30 p.m. **Public comment*** on any item within the committee's jurisdiction but not on this agenda

3:45 p.m. **Committee Work Session**
- Instructions to staff:
  - Agency oversight, assigned studies and member topics
  - Action items, if any
- Next meeting date: September 1 -- Helena

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

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The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

To offer public comment via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting: https://participate.legmt.gov/.

Written public comment may be submitted either through the online form for written comment or by mailing the comments to Law and Justice Interim Committee, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

**Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

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