



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

May 7, 2026
Capitol Room 154 & 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. 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
Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:32:44 Presiding Officer Amy Regier called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA WAREHOUSE

Implementation Update

08:33:13 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
08:33:46 Kayla Bragg, Executive Director, Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)
08:35:09 Janice Fries, Director, Statistical Analysis Center, MBCC
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
08:45:06 Adam Carpenter, Chief Data Officer, Department of Administration (DOA)

Public Comment

08:49:22 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:52:01 Rep. Steven Kelly
08:52:52 Dir. Janice Fries, MBCC
08:54:40 Adam Carpenter, DOA
08:55:06 Sen. Barry Usher
08:56:17 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

BUFFER ZONE LAW

Review of Provisional Draft Committee Legislation (LJIC-PD3): Creating the Offense of Obstructing a First Responder with Specified Intent After a Warning

08:56:27 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
08:56:58 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Indiana State Insights

09:01:04 Rep. Wendy McNamara, District 76, Indiana State House of Representatives
09:04:32 Sen. Scott Baldwin, District 20, Indiana State Senate
(See Exhibit 2)

Public Comment

09:09:58 Selene Koepke, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)
09:10:49 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)
(See Exhibit 2)
09:12:48 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:14:26 Sen. Barry Usher
09:14:47 Selene Koepke, MSPOA
09:15:36 Sen. Sue Vinton
09:15:54 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
09:16:18 Sen. Barry Usher

09:16:41 Rep. Wendy McNamara, Indiana State House of Representatives
09:17:56 Sen. Scott Baldwin, Indiana State Senate
09:23:19 Shelby DeMars, MPPA
09:24:49 Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff, LSD
09:26:11 Laura Sherley, LSD
09:27:16 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
09:27:47 Sen. Vince Ricci
09:28:14 Shelby DeMars, MPPA
09:28:36 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
09:29:22 Abbie J.N. Cziok, LSD
09:30:11 Rep. Steven Kelly
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
09:33:31 Abbie J.N. Cziok, LSD
09:35:13 Sen. Vince Ricci
09:35:35 Rep. Wendy McNamara, Indiana State House of Representatives
09:36:51 Sen. Scott Baldwin, Indiana State Senate
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
09:38:19 Vice Presiding Officer Zoey Zephyr
09:39:59 Rep. Steven Kelly
09:41:16 Rep. Wendy McNamara, Indiana State House of Representatives
09:42:26 Abbie J.N. Cziok, LSD
09:43:10 Laura Sherley, LSD
09:43:27 Sen. Scott Baldwin, Indiana State Senate
09:47:44 Sen. Barry Usher
09:48:23 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
09:49:00 **Recessed**
10:04:48 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 32 – STUDY OF ADVANCED INVESTIGATOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

10:04:56 Sen. Barry Usher
10:05:11 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

Stakeholder Input on Funding for Serious Crime Investigation Trainings

10:05:35 Shelby DeMars, Lobbyist, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)
10:11:31 Nic Eisele, Undersheriff, Fallon County & Board Member, Board of Directors, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

Public Comment

10:17:43 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:20:19 Rep. Steven Kelly
10:23:17 Sen. Barry Usher
10:23:54 Shelby DeMars, MPPA
10:24:48 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA
10:25:36 Rep. Steven Kelly
10:26:26 Shelby DeMars, MPPA
10:26:51 Sen. Barry Usher
10:27:12 Shelby DeMars, MPPA

COMMITTEE LEGISLATION

Review of Provisional Draft Committee Legislation (LJIC-PD2): Revise Laws Related to the Sexual Assault Response Network (SARN) Program and Committee

10:27:49 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:28:11 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Public Comment

10:31:03 Selene Koepke, Montana County Attorney's Association (MCAA) & Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)
10:31:51 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)
10:32:28 Joseph Baan, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
10:32:52 Kelsen Young, Executive Director, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)
10:34:34 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting in person.
10:36:04 Hope Stockwell, SARN Program Coordinator, Department of Justice (DOJ)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:40:49 Sen. Sue Vinton
10:41:24 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
10:42:41 Joseph Baan, LFD
10:44:31 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:45:11 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
(See Exhibit 5)
10:48:53 Selene Koepke, MCAA & MSPOA
10:50:57 Rep. Steven Kelly
10:51:52 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
10:52:23 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
10:55:01 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
10:55:27 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder

Public Comment - Continued

10:56:33 Madison Tyson, Billings Clinic Logan Health
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

10:59:53 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
11:00:37 Sen. Sue Vinton
11:01:24 Hope Stockwell, DOJ
11:02:48 Madison Tyson, Billings Clinic Logan Health

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

11:03:58 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
11:04:06 Abbie J.N. Cziok, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
11:06:24 **Recessed**
13:03:30 **Reconvened**

CORRECTIONAL GRIEVANCE PROGRAMS

Overview of the Montana Department of Corrections (COR) Grievance Program

13:03:31 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:03:56 Eric Strauss, Director, COR
13:05:04 Natalia Bowser, Deputy Director, COR
13:11:43 John Schaffer, Public Safety Division Chief, COR

Other States' Correctional Ombudsmen Programs

13:15:19 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
13:15:57 Bernardo Granwehr, State Ombudsman, Iowa Office of Ombudsman
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
13:30:12 Keith Barber, Ombudsman, Michigan Office of Legislative Ombudsman

Public Comment

13:41:26 Amanda McKnight, Founder, 406 Revolutionized
13:44:19 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:47:13 Rep. Steven Kelly
13:47:47 John Schaffer, COR
13:50:49 Sen. Vince Ricci
13:51:07 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR
13:52:44 Amanda McKnight, 406 Revolutionized
13:54:17 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
13:54:54 Bernardo Granwehr, Iowa Office of Ombudsman
14:01:32 Keith Barber, Michigan Office of Legislative Ombudsman
14:06:49 Rep. Braxton Mitchell
14:07:11 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR
14:07:51 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

AGENCY UPDATE: DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (COR)

14:08:09 Eric Strauss, Director, COR

Public Comment

14:16:53 Nicole Gomez Patalano, Director of Criminal and Legal Policy, Catalyst Montana
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

14:19:53 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

14:22:38 Bryan German

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:24:51 Rep. Steven Kelly

14:25:56 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR

14:27:27 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder

14:27:52 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR

14:32:36 Rep. Steven Kelly

14:33:38 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR

14:34:36 Sen. Shane Morigeau

14:37:51 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR

14:43:07 Sen. Barry Usher

14:43:23 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR

14:48:07 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder

14:49:15 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR

14:53:20 Rep. Steven Kelly

14:54:07 Dir. Eric Strauss, COR

MONTANA'S DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) AND CHILD ENDANGERMENT LAWS

14:54:59 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

14:56:06 David Ricci, Deputy County Attorney, Criminal Division, Cascade County

14:57:19 Matthew Robertson, Deputy County Attorney, Criminal Division, Cascade County

Public Comment

15:02:52 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

15:06:14 Sen. Vince Ricci

15:06:24 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

15:06:29 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:06:48 Matthew Robertson, Cascade County

15:07:34 Rep. Steven Kelly

15:08:08 Vice Presiding Officer Zoey Zephyr

15:08:53 Matthew Robertson, Cascade County

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN LJIC JURISDICTION

15:19:04 May Simmons, Lake County Resident

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

15:22:36 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
15:23:04 Rep. Steven Kelly
15:23:51 Sen. Sue Vinton
15:24:12 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
15:25:25 Sen. Barry Usher
15:25:49 Rep. Steven Kelly
15:26:39 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
15:27:21 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
15:27:43 Sen. Shane Morigeau
15:28:49 Sen. Barry Usher
15:29:16 Rep. Steven Kelly
15:29:41 Rep. Katie Fire Thunder
15:30:10 Laura Sherley, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:30:31 Sen. Barry Usher
15:31:14 Laura Sherley, LSD
15:31:54 Presiding Officer Amy Regier
15:32:06 Sen. Barry Usher
15:33:38 Sen. Shane Morigeau
15:33:48 Presiding Officer Amy Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:33:57