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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE
69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS	HOUSE MEMBERS	COMMITTEE STAFF
Kenneth Bogner	Ed Buttrey	Maddelyn Pennington - Secretary
Ellie Boldman - Vice Chair	Brian Close	Jameson Walker – Legal Staff
Josh Kassmier	Jamie Isaly	Matthew Weaver – Lead Staff
Mark Noland	Brandon Ler - Chair	
	Nelly Nicol	
	Peter Strand	
	Morgan Thiel	

MINUTES LOG

September 10, 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:
Sen. Josh Kassmier (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Morgan Thiel (R)
Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey (R)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)
Rep. Jamie Isaly (D)
Rep. Brian Close (D)
Rep. Peter Strand (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:
Jameson Walker, Legal Staff
Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff
Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary

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 (Attachment 2)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

00:00:00 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

00:00:55 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 1

Committee Questions / Discussion

00:02:55 Sen. Mark Noland

00:03:00 Jameson Walker, LSD

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: AGENCY LEGISLATION PROPOSALS

00:03:37 Jillien Streit, Director, Department of Agriculture

EXHIBIT 2

Public Comment

00:05:44 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

00:05:53 Sen. Mark Noland

00:06:05 Director Jillien Streit, Department of Agriculture

00:06:17 Rep. Jamie Isaly

00:06:44 Director Jillien Streit, Department of Agriculture

00:08:01 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

00:08:44 Director Jillien Streit, Department of Agriculture

00:10:20 Sen. Mark Noland

00:10:49 Director Jillien Streit, Department of Agriculture

00:13:19 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

00:13:53 Director Jillien Streit, Department of Agriculture

00:14:39 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

00:15:20 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 3

Motion

00:15:49 Sen. Josh Kassmier moved to let the Department of Agriculture start drafting the proposed bills.

Vote

00:16:01 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

MONTANA BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL INNOVATION TASK FORCE: FINAL REPORT

00:16:49 Sen. Gayle Lammers, Senate District 21 (SD 21)

00:16:51 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

00:17:05 Sen. Gayle Lammers, SD 21

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 5

00:22:03 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

00:22:12 Melanie Hall, Commissioner, Division of Banking and Financial Institutions, Department of Administration (DOA)

(See Exhibit 4)

Committee Questions / Discussion

00:33:22 Sen. Josh Kassmier

00:33:35 Melanie Hall, DOA

00:35:09 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

MONTANA BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL INNOVATION TASK FORCE: FINAL REPORT - Continued

00:35:19 Melanie Hall, DOA

(See Exhibit 4)

00:38:36 Rep. Curtis Schomer, House District 48 (HD 48)

Public Comment

00:41:39 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

00:43:39 Sam Sill, Montana Bankers Association

Committee Questions / Discussion

00:48:45 Rep. Morgan Thiel

00:49:13 Sen. Gayle Lammers

00:50:22 Rep. Curtis Schomer

00:50:56 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

00:51:32 Sen. Gayle Lammers

00:52:34 Melanie Hall, DOA

00:54:35 Sen. Mark Noland

00:56:34 Melanie Hall, DOA

00:58:53 Rep. Morgan Thiel

00:59:13 Sen. Gayle Lammers

01:00:53 Melanie Hall, DOA

(See Exhibit 5)

01:02:12 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

01:02:41 Trevor Graff, CSI

01:03:05 Rep. Jamie Isaly

01:03:31 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

01:03:38 Sen. Gayle Lammers

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 55 (HJ55): RENTAL APPLICATION FEES AMENDMENT—Provisional Draft 0008 (PD0008)

01:05:59 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

01:06:32 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 6

01:07:01 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

Public Comment

01:10:29 None

Committee Questions / Discussion

01:10:34 Rep. Jamie Isaly

01:10:52 Matthew Weaver, LSD

01:11:17 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

01:11:34 Sen. Mark Noland

01:11:47 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

01:13:26 Rep. Morgan Thiel

01:13:43 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman

01:14:49 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

Motion

01:15:34 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman moved for the committee to adopt PD0008 as a committee bill.

Vote

01:16:21 Carried 7-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Mark Noland and Rep. Morgan Thiel voting no.

Incorrectly noted as carried by 9-2 due to miscount, corrected on the record at 01:42:34.

01:17:30 Carrier: Vice Presiding Officer Boldman

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 61 (HJ61): RISK MODELS AND HAZARD MITIGATION—PROVISIONAL DRAFT (PD0006)

01:17:51 Rep. Brian Close

EXHIBIT 7

Public Comment

01:19:33 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

01:20:12 Joe Kolman, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
01:21:24 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
01:21:27 Rep. Brian Close

Committee Questions / Discussion
01:21:35 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
01:22:01 Rep. Brian Close
01:22:19 Sen. Mark Noland
01:23:09 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
01:23:51 Rep. Jamie Isaly
01:24:46 Sen. Mark Noland
01:26:07 Rep. Peter Strand
01:26:35 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

Motion
01:27:10 Rep. Brian Close moved to delay executive action on PD0006 until the committee's work session.

Vote
01:27:21 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

01:28:11 **Recessed**
01:42:20 **Reconvened**

Committee Questions / Discussion
01:42:21 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
01:42:34 Maddelyn Pennington, Secretary, Legislative Services Division

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY (DLI): AGENCY LEGISLATION PROPOSALS
Licensing Reform Task Force Recommendations
01:42:52 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, DLI
EXHIBIT 8
EXHIBIT 9
01:54:57 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal Officer, DLI
(See Exhibit 8)
02:11:33 Sarah Swanson, DLI
02:11:43 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

Public Comment
02:12:01 Leanna Troesh, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Committee Questions / Discussion
02:13:30 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

02:13:39 Rep. Nelly Nicol
02:14:22 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI
02:16:24 Erin Sullivan, DLI
02:17:54 Sen. Mark Noland
02:19:31 Sarah Swanson, DLI
02:19:58 Rep. Morgan Thiel
02:20:27 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
02:21:16 Sarah Swanson, DLI
02:21:42 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT 10

Motion
02:22:05 Sen. Mark Noland moved for the committee to adopt the 16 titles of legislation proposed by the Licensing Reform Task Force.

Vote
02:22:21 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY (DLI): AGENCY LEGISLATION PROPOSALS – Continued
DLI Agency Proposals
02:23:26 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI
(See Exhibit 8)
02:43:39 Sarah Swanson, DLI

Public Comment
02:44:00 None

Committee Questions / Discussion
02:44:22 Sen. Mark Noland
02:45:13 Sarah Swanson, DLI
02:49:13 Rep. Nelly Nicol
02:49:56 Sarah Swanson, DLI
02:53:11 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

Motion
02:53:22 Sen. Mark Noland moved for the committee to adopt the 25 legislation proposals by the Department of Labor and Industry.

Vote
02:54:09 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Questions / Discussion
02:54:35 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

02:54:50 Sarah Swanson, DLI

02:56:26 **Recessed**
03:59:53 **Reconvened**

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY (DLI): AGENCY LEGISLATION PROPOSALS - Continued
406 Jobs
04:00:05 Sarah Swanson, DLI
EXHIBIT 11

Public Comment
04:33:54 None

Committee Questions / Discussion
04:34:13 Sen. Mark Noland
04:35:07 Sarah Swanson, DLI
04:36:50 Rep. Jamie Isaly
04:37:19 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
04:38:17 Sarah Swanson, DLI

VIRGINIA CITY CONTRACTS
04:44:01 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
04:44:38 Becky DiGiovanna, Concessionaire, Fairweather Inn
04:47:55 Justin Gatewood, Mayor, Virginia City
EXHIBIT 12
04:55:01 Duke Gilman, County Commissioner, Madison County
04:56:51 Mandy Rambo, Deputy Director, Department of Commerce
05:05:50 Marta Bertoglio, Director, Department of Commerce
05:07:04 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

Public Comment
05:07:55 Shauna Belding
EXHIBIT 13
EXHIBIT 14
05:15:56 Stephanie Kruer, Madison County
EXHIBIT 15
EXHIBIT 16
EXHIBIT 17
05:25:46 Kace Doornbos
05:28:59 Patricia Pedula-Boles
05:37:22 Rep. Kenneth Walsh, House District 69 (HD 69)

Committee Questions / Discussion

05:44:05 Rep. Brian Close
05:44:27 Rep. Kenneth Walsh, HD 69
05:45:23 Sen. Mark Noland
05:45:46 Mandy Rambo, Department of Commerce
05:47:48 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:00:41 Rep. Peter Strand
06:01:24 Mandy Rambo, Department of Commerce
06:03:35 Rep. Jamie Isaly
06:04:22 Mandy Rambo, Department of Commerce
06:07:09 Justin Gatewood, Mayor, Virginia City
06:08:09 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:09:12 Mandy Rambo, Department of Commerce
06:11:10 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:12:21 Director Marta Bertoglio, Department of Commerce
06:14:01 Mandy Rambo, Department of Commerce
06:17:53 Sen. Mark Noland
06:21:10 Mandy Rambo, Department of Commerce
06:22:20 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 33 (SJ33): TRANSPARENCY AND REBATES—PROVISIONAL DRAFT 0007 (PD0007) AND PROVISIONAL DRAFT PD0009 (PD0009) PD0007

06:23:12 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:23:45 Rep. Brian Close
EXHIBIT 18

Public Comment

06:26:59 Bruce Spencer, Cigna
06:29:28 Jonathan Buxton, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)
06:31:15 Shane Scanlon, Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufactures Association (PhRMA)
06:32:49 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)
06:34:08 Michael Matovich, Montana Family Pharmacies
06:36:05 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal Officer, Department of Labor & Industry (DLI)

Committee Questions / Discussion

06:36:50 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:38:44 Trevor Graff, CSI
06:40:16 Rep. Brian Close

06:41:42 Bruce Spencer, Cigna

Motion
06:44:15 Rep. Brian Close moved to table PD0007.

Discussion on the Motion
06:44:17 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:44:25 Rep. Brian Close

PD0009
06:44:57 Rep. Brian Close
EXHIBT 19

Public Comment
06:46:31 Bruce Spencer, Cigna
06:50:48 Jonathan Buxton, PCMA
06:51:36 Michael Matovich, Montana Family Pharmacies
06:54:35 Trevor Graff, CSI
06:55:23 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:55:30 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

Committee Questions / Discussion
06:55:48 Rep. Brian Close
06:57:03 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
06:59:38 Rep. Jamie Isaly
07:00:56 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
07:01:47 Sen. Mark Noland
07:01:59 Rep. Nelly Nicol
07:03:22 Trevor Graff, CSI
07:03:27 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey
07:05:00 Sen. Mark Noland

Motion
07:07:34 Sen. Mark Noland moved to table PD0009.

Vote
07:07:38 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLITION 61 (HJ61): RISK MODELS AND HAZARD MITIGATION—PROVISIONAL DRAFT (PD0006)
07:08:15 Rep. Brian Close
(See Exhibit 7)

Public Comment

07:11:25 Maddie Tyson, American Property & Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

07:17:32 Bruce Spencer, National Association of Mutual Insurance Carriers (NAMIC)

Committee Questions / Discussion

07:25:18 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

07:26:06 Jameson Walker, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

07:27:17 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, LSD

07:28:06 Trevor Graff, Government Affairs Director, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

07:28:47 Bruce Spencer, NAMIC

07:30:47 Rep. Brian Close

Motion

07:31:27 Rep. Brian Close moved PD0006 with conceptual amendments, one to allow the Public Service Commission to be replaced by title 9, chapter 2, part 3 and the implementation to be postponed until January 1, 2029.

Discussion on the Motion

07:32:40 Sen. Mark Noland

07:34:19 Rep. Nelly Nicol

Vote

07:35:40 Vote

Failed 4-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Brian Close, Rep. Jamie Isaly, Rep. Peter Strand voting aye. Vice Chair Ellie Boldman voting aye by proxy.

COMMITTEE FINAL REPORTS

House Joint Resolution 27 (HJ 27)

07:37:11 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EXHIBIT 20

07:38:17 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

House Joint Resolution 52 (HJ 52)

07:38:26 Matthew Weaver, LSD

EXHIBIT 21

07:38:42 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

House Joint Resolution 55 (HJ 55)

07:38:52 Matthew Weaver, LSD

EXHIBIT 22

House Joint Resolution 61 (HJ 61)

07:40:01 Matthew Weaver, LSD

EXHIBIT 23

Senate Joint Resolution 11 (SJ 11)
07:41:05 Matthew Weaver, LSD
EXHIBIT 24
07:41:48 Rep. Jamie Isaly

Senate Joint Resolution 33 (SJ 33)
07:42:05 Matthew Weaver
EXHIBIT 25

Public Comment
07:43:05 Brad Longcake, Montana Funeral Directors

Committee Questions / Discussion
07:43:23 Rep. Brian Close
07:43:45 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

Motion
07:43:58 Rep. Jamie Isaly moved to approve all the final study reports as a batch.

Discussion on the Motion
07:44:26 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

Motion
07:44:31 Rep. Jamie Isaly moved to modify the above motion and approve all the final study reports as a batch and include proposed changes to the final study reports.

Vote
07:44:51 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION
07:45:12 None

WORK SESSION
Provisional Draft 0003 Sponsor Selection
07:45:33 Matthew Weaver, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Committee Questions / Discussion
07:46:15 Carrier: Sen. Mark Noland

Wrap Up
07:46:35 Matthew Weaver, LSD
07:49:02 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

07:49:05 Rep. Brian Close
07:49:22 Acting Presiding Officer Ed Buttrey

ADJOURNMENT
Adjournment: 07:50:30