PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

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. Chair
ZOOEY ZEPHYR, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE STAFF
LAURA SHERLEY, Lead Staff
JULIANNE BURKHARDT, Staff Attorney
ANIA ALDUENDA, Secretary

TENTATIVE AGENDA

(updated Aug 27, 2026)

September 1, 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.

8:30 a.m. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
Chair Regier

8:35 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

9:00 a.m. **Unregulated Substances:** Review of provisional draft committee legislation
Laura Sherley, Committee Staff, LSD

- (**LJIC-PD6**): Creating the kratom consumer protection act
- (**LJIC-PD7**): Creating the unregulated intoxicating consumer products control act
  - Public comment* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
  - *Potential action item:* approve LJIC-PD6 and/or LJIC-PD7, if wanted

9:30 a.m. **HJ 32 – Study of Advanced Investigator Qualifications for Law Enforcement:** Review of provisional draft committee legislation
Laura Sherley, Committee Staff, LSD

- (**LJIC-PD8**): Funding for advanced investigative training for law enforcement
  - Public comment* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
  - *Potential action item:* approve LJIC-PD8, if wanted

10:00 a.m. **DUI and Child Endangerment Laws**: Review of <u>updated</u> provisional draft committee legislation
Julianne Burkhardt, Staff Attorney, LSD

- (**LJIC-PD4.2**): DUI and child endangerment
  - Public comment* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
  - *Potential action item:* approve LJIC-PD4.2, if wanted

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **Agency Oversight:** Office of the State Public Defender agency legislative proposals for 2027 Session preintroduction
Koan Mercer, Director
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee
- *Action item:* Authorize drafting of agency legislative proposals

11:00 a.m. **Legislative Proposals** from Judicial Branch for 2027 Session preintroduction
Dave McAlpin, Court Administrator
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee
- *Action item:* Authorize drafting of Judicial Branch legislative proposals

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. **Agency Updates:** Department of Corrections responses to committee questions and follow-up requests from July 2026 meeting
Eric Strauss, Director
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

1:45 p.m. **Correctional Oversight**: Review of updated provisional draft committee legislation
Laura Sherley, Committee Staff, LSD
- (**LJIC-PD5.2**): Creating an independent office of corrections ombudsman
  - Public comment* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
  - *Potential action item:* approve LJIC-PD5.2, if wanted

2:15 p.m. **Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission report**
Jeremy Brown, Executive Director
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

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

3:00 p.m. **Modernization and Risk Analysis Committee (MARA) Update**
Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division
- Public comment* on the topic
- Questions from the committee

3:15 p.m. **Review of Draft Study Reports**
Laura Sherley, Committee Staff, LSD
- **HJ 23 (2025):** Study of Youth Court Laws
- **HJ 32 (2025):** Study of Advanced Investigator Qualifications for Law Enforcement
- **HJ 56 (2025):** Study of Search and Rescue Services and Funding
  - Public comment* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
  - *Action item:* revise/approve study reports

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

4:00 p.m. **Committee Work Session**

- Review committee legislation and assign sponsors:
  - (**LJIC-PD1**): Generally revise laws related to public safety agencies requesting conduct-related information on applicants
  - (**LJIC-PD2**): Revise laws related to the Sexual Assault Response Network program and committee
  - (**LJIC-PD3**): Creating the offense of obstructing a first responder with specified intent after a warning
  - Any other adopted LJIC drafts
- *Potential action item:* approve drafting of agency or Judicial Branch legislative proposals
- *Potential action item:* approve study reports
- Other items requiring a motion?
- Final comments from committee members

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Public Participation

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.*

Accessibility

The Montana Legislative Services Division makes reasonable accommodations for persons who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator, Leah Hibbs, at 406-444-3073 or leah.hibbs@legmt.gov as soon as possible before the meeting date.