



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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AGENDA

Mar 10, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Capitol, Room 154 and Zoom

Note: All times are tentative

- 9:00 a.m. Call to Order: Roll Call**
Representative Ler, Chair
- 9:05 a.m. Administrative Rule Review**
Jameson Walker, Staff Attorney
- 9:20 a.m. Agency Oversight: Governor's Office of Economic Development**
Representative Ler, Chair
a. Department Update: *Mark Blasdel, Director*
b. Public Comment
- 9:50 a.m. SHORT BREAK**
- 10:00 a.m. Emerging Issues: Auto-Insurance Right to Appraisal**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
a. Problem Framing
-MCRA: *Melissa Lewis*
-AEPI: *Erica Eversman*
-Auto Claim Specialists: *Robert McDorman*
-APCIA: *Robert Passmore*
-NAMIC: *Brandon Vick*
b. Public Comment
c. Legislator Question and Answer
- 11:00 a.m. SHORT BREAK**
- 11:10 a.m. Member Topic: Robotics, AI, and MT Workforce**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
a. Panelist Presentations
-Office of Public Instruction (OPI): *IT & Data Special Projects Coordinator, Lucas Rowsey*
-MT Digital Academy (MTDA): *Executive Director, Jason Neiffer*
-Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE): *Director of Academic Policy and Research, Joseph Thiel*
-DLI: *State Workforce Innovation Board Director, Tammie Hickey*
b. Public Comment
c. Legislator Question and Answer

- 12:00 p.m. LUNCH**
- 1:00 p.m. Member Topic: Gambling**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
- a. Panelist Presentations
 - Gambling Control Division (GCD): Administrator, Alex Sterhan*
 - MT Board of Horse Racing: Executive Secretary, Gary Koepplin*
 - MT Lottery/Sports Bet MT: Marketing and Sales Director, Anne Charpentier*
 - Sports Betting Alliance (SBA): Public Policy, Sarah Filosa*
 - MT Council on Problem Gambling: Government Affairs, Brad Longcake*
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Legislator Question and Answer
- 2:00 p.m. SHORT BREAK**
- 2:10 p.m. HJ 55: Property Management Licensing and Practice**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
- a. Panelist Presentations
 - DLI: Licensing Bureau Chief, Kevin Bragg*
 - National Association of Residential Property Managers (NARPM): Big Sky MT Chapter President, Jerrica Seilstad*
 - Montana Property Education: Course Instructor, Sarnen Steinbarth*
 - MT Landlords Association (MLA): State President, John Sinrud*
 - MT Legal Services Association (MLSA): Housing Senior Attorney, Amy Hall*
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Legislator Question and Answer
- 3:00 p.m. SHORT BREAK**
- 3:10 p.m. Member Topic - Intoxicating Substances: Kratom and Alternative Beverages**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
- a. Panelist Presentations
 - University of Florida: Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, Dr. Christopher McCurdy*
 - DOJ: Narcotics Bureau Chief, Steve Crawford*
 - Coalition for Adult Beverage Alternatives (CABA): Chair, Diana Eberlein*
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Legislator Question and Answer
- 4:00 p.m. SHORT BREAK**
- 4:10 p.m. Emerging Issues: Rural Veterinarians**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
- a. Problem Framing
 - Crazy Mountain Veterinary Clinic: Dr. Katie Rein*
 - Beef Magazine/Farm Progress Companies: Contributing Editor, Clint Peck*
 - Montana Veterinary Medical Association: Dr. Barr Gustafson*
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Legislator Question and Answer
- 5:00 p.m. SHORT BREAK**
- 5:10 p.m. CSI Update: Progress Report – HJ 61 Data Call and Prescription Drug meetings**
Representative Ler, Chair

- 5:20 p.m. SJ 11: Review of Provisional Draft Legislation**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
- Review of Provisional Draft - SJ11 1.1: Revising the definition of "Farmer's Market"
 - Public Comment
 - Committee Discussion
- 5:30 p.m. HJ 61: Staff Review of Example Legislation - Insurance Discounts**
Matthew Weaver, Research Analyst
- Review example legislation
 - Public Comment
 - Committee Discussion
- 5:40 p.m. Public Comment*** on any topic under the Committee's jurisdiction but not on this agenda
- 6:00 p.m. Work Session: Committee Discussion and Meeting Wrap Up**
Representative Ler, Chair
- Next Meeting
 - Instructions to Staff
- 6:30 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 Economic Affairs 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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