

Brief overview of sub-committee discussion for section A

Governor's Office

- o LFD presentation, ensuing brief discussion of pay-plan funding included in HB 645 not being out of the ordinary in comparison to prior biennia
- o Discussion regarding clarification that funding is from freed-up general funds

Department of Administration

- o Mark Bruno, OBPP noted that the executive intends to move the high-performance computing initiative from D of A to Commerce, but did not elaborate on the mechanism or if an amendment is in the works
- o Discussion about the amount and timing of additional investment in the teachers' retirement system

Department of Commerce

- o LFD presentation
- o Agency presentation
- o Open discussion by public including:
 - o Bear paw economic development lobbying for financial support of Agro-Energy industrial park
 - o Grow Montana lobbying for financial support of stimulus dollars for six food and agricultural development centers. Funding is currently being requested in HB583
 - o Betsy Hands testifying on behalf of increased or new funding for low-income housing
 - o Chere Gisto testifying on behalf of increased funding for historic preservation projects
 - o National Center for appropriate technology lobbied for increase in tax credits for home weatherization from \$500 to \$800
 - o Representative Ankney requesting increase in funding for coal impact grants
- o Committee and public discussion of Distressed Wood Product Industry initiative
 - o Tim Baker, Montana Wilderness Association testified in support of funding
 - o Additional public testimony in support of funding
- o Public discussion on broadband matching grants
 - o Jeff Fiess and Bonnie Lorang, independent telecom lobbyists testified in opposition to providing funding
 - o Quest lobbyist testified in opposition to providing funding
- o Committee discussion of school facilities grants, why at commerce
 - o Senator Liabile requested further information including a list of all state school districts, an explanation of how schools are classified, and a list detailing enrollments by district

Military Affairs

- o Agency presentation
- o Brief discussion by sub-committee
 - o Clarification that projects are "pre-approved" by federal National Guard Bureau
- o Representative Timothy Furey spoke to request support of proposed amendment that funds insurance payment to guard and reserve members returning from deployment

Department of Labor and Industry

- o LFD presentation
- o Agency presentation
- o Discussion of prescriptive nature of the funds
- o Discussion of the change in statute for the Alternative Base Period (ABP), the adoption of two additional benefit classes, and the financial impact of the change in statute in terms of stimulus funds and on-going liabilities
- o Clarification of the non-appropriated nature of the proprietary account that unemployment benefits are paid from
- o Discussion of the distribution, servicing, and purpose of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training grants