



Economic Affairs Interim Committee

61st Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

ROY BROWN
KEN HANSEN
JIM KEANE
RYAN ZINKE

HOUSE MEMBERS

CHUCK HUNTER
MICHELE REINHART
DON ROBERTS
GORDON VANCE

COMMITTEE STAFF

PAT MURDO, Research Analyst
BART CAMPBELL, Staff Attorney
CLAUDIA (CJ) JOHNSON, Secretary

as of 10/16/09

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

November 17, 2009, Room 152, State Capitol

(9 a.m. to noon MetNet Link to MSU-Billings site)

DRAFT Agenda - All times are tentative. An issue may be discussed earlier or later than listed.

- 8:30 a.m. Greetings, Roll Call, Overview of Agenda - Chairman Keane
Action Item: Adoption of written Economic Affairs Committee minutes from 09-09-09
- 8:45 **SJR 30 Workers' Compensation Study**
Updates on Plan 1 losses/claims as a percentage of payroll - staff (Pat and Kris)
Report from Montana State Fund Liaisons - Sen. Zinke, Rep. Hunter
Committee discussion for next steps in staff research
Report on Governor's Conference on Workers' Compensation -- Rep. Vance
- 9:00 Medical Provider Panel (TBD)
Addressing the following questions:
- what changes would benefit the workers' compensation system to help:
 - move an injured worker from a temporary total disability to either temporary partial disability or permanent partial disability of permanent total disability?
 - determine the degree of impairment?
 - determine whether a person has reached maximum medical improvement?
 - deal with demands from an injured worker for alternative treatment or tests that the medical provider does not think necessary?
 - are changes needed to improve responses from insurers, employers, attorneys?
 - what policies might help improve availability of medical providers familiar with workers' compensation needs and demands?
 - what criteria would be necessary for creating/using a medical review board?
 - what differences are there between workers' compensation patients and people injured off the job and how could those differences hurt or help the system?
 - what types of fraud do you see in the workers' compensation system?
- Break
10:30 Followup on Employer and Employee Perspectives on Return to Work and Fraud (TBD)
Panel from Billings of employers and employees addressing these questions:
- what are the main problems with getting injured employees back to work -- is it lack of light-duty jobs, physician sign-off, or employee/employer concerns?
 - what help can employers provide to employees to ease transition to work?
 - can vocational rehabilitation be refined to help both employers and employees?
 - for employers -- 1) what are the stumbling blocks to implementing early return to work of an injured employee? and 2) what solutions do you see for workers' comp fraud
 - for employees -- 1) what helped/hurt the process of getting back to work? and 2) what is your perception of fraud in workers' compensation?
- 11:30 Safety Programs for Agriculture and Livestock Producers
Les Graham and Gene Surber, Montana Ag Safety Program

(see next page)



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

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DRAFT Afternoon Agenda, continued

- 11:50 Public Comment on Workers' Compensation Issues
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Update on Workers' Compensation Fraud and Other Research Topics
--Ann Clayton, consultant hired by Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)
--Jerry Keck, DOLI, update on utilization and treatment guidelines
- Break
- 2:15 p.m. **Member Issues:** Unemployment Insurance/Compensation and Licensing Board
▶ Unemployment Insurance Benefits (extensions) and Trust Fund Solvency
-- Roy Mulvaney, Department of Labor and Industry, Unemployment Division
- Break
- 3:00 **Member Issues:** Professional and Occupational Licensing Boards
▶ Budgeting and Fees Commensurate with Costs
-- Jack Kane, Department of Labor and Industry Business Standards Div.
-- Lisa Johnson, Department of Labor and Industry Business Standards Div.
▶ Professional Assistance Programs for impaired licensed professionals
-- Maggie Connor, Business Standards Division Health Care Licensing Bureau
--Jeannie Worsech, Business Standards Division Business and Professional Licensing Bureau
- Public comment on Unemployment and Professional Licensing Issues
- 4:15 Legislative Audit Report on Fantasy Sports Parimutuel Gambling
Angus MacIver, Legislative Audit Division
- Committee Update:* Staff -- Legislative Audit Committee update, January meeting review with representatives from the Board of Horseracing and the Montana Lottery
- 4:30 Rule Review
Bart Campbell, staff attorney
- 4:45 Public Comment on any issue under the purview of the committee on or off the agenda
- 5:00 **Committee Action:** Decide on next meeting dates (Jan. 20-21 instead of Jan. 19-20?)
Directions to Staff for Next Meeting
Adjourn

If you plan to attend the meeting and need services or accommodations for a disability, please contact Pat Murdo by email at pmurdo@mt.gov or CJ Johnson at 406-444-3064 at least 5 working days before the meeting.