

Abstracts of Executive Agency and Legislative Interim Committee Reports 2013-2014 Interim

The Montana Legislative Services Division, in accordance with 5-11-210, MCA, serves as a clearinghouse for reports that are required to be made to the Legislature. The following list contains report information that has been submitted to Legislative Services for the 2013-2014 interim.

The reports are listed under the various departments or entities responsible for issuing them. The information for each report includes the title; the specific office, division, etc. that issues or can provide information regarding the report (listed in parentheses); and an abstract.

Many of these reports will be submitted to the appropriate legislative committees during the upcoming session.

To view these reports online, please visit the Legislative Reference Center's state agency reports web page at: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Services%20Division/Reference%20Center/Agency-reports.asp>

Dept. of Administration

2014 Biennial Lease Summary Report

The Biennial Lease Summary Report provides data on space leased by state agencies other than the university system. As required by 2-17-101(1), MCA, the Biennial Lease Report includes the following information:

- (1) the amount, location, and nature of space used by each agency; and
- (2) summary information on average cost per square foot in each city where the State has leased office space.

2014 State Strategic Plan for Information Technology

The 2014 State Strategic Plan for Information Technology (IT) sets the foundation for ensuring the development of IT resources in an organized, deliberative, and cost-effective manner. As required in 2-17-521, MCA, the State IT Strategic Plan establishes:

- (1) statewide mission, goals, and objectives for the use of IT; and
- (2) strategic direction for how agencies will develop and use IT resources to provide government services.

2015 State Biennial Report for Information Technology

The Biennial Report for Information Technology is the assessment and evaluation of the State information technology activities. Per 2-17-512(4), MCA, the Biennial Report Plan includes:

- (1) an analysis of the State's IT infrastructure, including its value, condition, and capacity;
- (2) an evaluation of performance relating to information technology;
- (3) an assessment of progress made toward implementing the State Strategic Plan for Information Technology;
- (4) an inventory of state information services, equipment, and proprietary software;
- (5) agency budget requests for major projects; and
- (6) other information as determined necessary by the Department or requested by the Governor or the Legislature.

Actuarial Valuation As of July 1, 2014 (Montana University System)

This report, in accordance with 19-20-621, MCA, contains the findings of the annual actuarial valuation of the Montana University System and the supplemental contribution rate in regards to past service liability of university members of the Teachers' Retirement System.

Actuarial Valuation As of July 1, 2014 (Teachers' Retirement System)

This report, in accordance with 19-20-216, MCA, contains the findings and recommendations of the annual actuarial valuation of the Teachers' Retirement System.

e-Government Advisory Council Report

The Electronic Government Advisory Council advises the Department of Administration on the creation, management, and administration of electronic government services and information on the Internet. The council is charged with reviewing and advising the department on reports regarding the growth, performance, and use of electronic government services and other measurements that the advisory council considers necessary to implement and enhance the functioning of electronic government services.

Employee Incentive Program Report, FY 2013 and 2014

The Department of Administration prepares and submits the State of Montana Employee Incentive Program Report every other year to the Montana Legislature as mandated by 2-18-1103, MCA. The biennial report contains a list of award recipients granted incentive awards by state agencies, the amounts of the awards, and the resulting or projected savings and improvements in the effectiveness of state government.

Major IT Project Summary Report – Fiscal Years 2016-2017

The report summarizes the major information technology projects proposed for the current biennium (FY2014-2015) and those proposed for the next biennium (FY2016-2017). The report, as required in 2-17-526(2), MCA, contains the agency, project name, project description, project purpose, estimated completion date, project budget, and status of these major IT projects. The CIO will deliver this report to the Legislative Finance Committee as its November 12, 2014, meeting.

Montana Teachers' Retirement System's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

This report is intended to provide comprehensive information on the financial operations of the Montana Teachers' Retirement System for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. The issuance of the report satisfies the legal requirements of Section 19-20-201 (d) and 19-20-215, MCA.

Public Employees Retirement Board Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014)

This report, expected to be available by early 2015, satisfied the reporting requirements of 19-2-407, MCA.

Reemployment of TRS Retirees 19-20-732, MCA – Teachers' Retirements System

This report, in accordance with 19-20-732, describes the implementation of HB 363 from the 2009 session and provides information from 2009 to the present regarding school district rehires under that law.

Report by the Director of Department of Administration to the Legislature on Local Government Compliance with Title 17, Chapter 2, Part 3, MCA, "State and Local Charges for Services – Limit on Fund Balance"

The report outlines the statutory responsibility for the Department Director to report to the Legislature. The report also confirms that the Department monitors compliance by reviewing local governments' audit reports submitted by independent auditors. Those audits are required to include testing of the requirements of Title 17, Chapter 2, part 3, MCA. The report also documents any findings contained in those local government audit reports. The Department reports no findings of noncompliance in the audit reports received and reviewed.

Report to the 64th Montana Legislature from the Capitol Complex Advisory Council

The content of this report, required by 2-17-804, MCA, contains a brief overview of the purpose of the Capitol Complex Advisory Council, its current membership, staff changes, and a summary of the Council's activities for the past biennium.

Dept. of Agriculture

Report to Environmental Quality Council on Pesticide and Ground Water Enforcement Programs (December 2013)

This report describes the Dept. of Agriculture's activities and efforts related to enforcement of the Montana Pesticide Act, portions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. and the Montana Agricultural Groundwater Protection Act.

State Agency and County Weed District Biennial Noxious Weed Report FY-2012 – 2013

The purpose of this report is to summarize weed management information from biennial reports received from 56 county weed districts and 8 state agencies. For the FY2012/2013 report a web-based reporting system was utilized so counties and agencies could submit their information electronically. The deadline for submitting information was May 30, 2014.

Dept. of Commerce

Montana Board of Investments Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report

Montana Board of Investments Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report

These reports contains historical data from 1972 (the first fiscal year the Board managed the unified investment program) through 2013 and 2014 respectively. Statistical data are provided on the Board's investment activities and changes in investments from the previous year. Section 17-6-322, MCA, requires the Board to report on the Permanent Coal Tax Trust Fund (Trust Fund). The reports include information regarding the Trust Fund. Appendix A of each report includes income generated by account and securities portfolios for all accounts managed by the Board, while Appendix B contains the Board's audited financial statements with accompanying portfolios.

Pursuant to 17-6-230, MCA, the Board is required to submit a report on retirement system trust funds invested by the Board. The reports include statistical data on the State's nine pension funds' investments.

Montana Heritage Commission 2013-2014 Biennial Report

This report discusses the Montana Heritage Commission's activities and goals in regards to the management of Virginia City, Nevada City, and Reeder's Alley historic sites.

Montana Veterans' Home Loan Program Update (September 2014)

This two-page memo, in accordance with 90-6-604, MCA, contains a fact sheet that provides details about the Montana Veterans' Home Loan Program as well as a statistical overview of the Program.

Quality Schools Grant Program: 2017 Biennium Project Funding Recommendations and 2015 Biennium Emergency, Planning, and Project Grants Report

The deadline for Quality Schools grant applications for school facility projects to be funded with 2017 biennium funding will be accepted by the Department on or before June 26, 2014. Once the applications have been ranked and scored, the Department will recommend school facility projects to be funded, including the amount of grant assistance for each project, and submit these recommendations to the

Governor. The Governor will then review the recommendations and submit the recommendations to the Legislature. The Legislature will make the final decisions and necessary appropriations. The Department must also provide a summary of those 2015 biennium grant awards that have not met start-up conditions by September 30, 2014. The report is expected to be available electronically on the Department website at <http://comdev.mt.gov/Grantsbureau/grantsbureau.mcp> in November or December 2014.

Socioeconomic Impact Review and Analysis of Significant Federal Land Management Proposals

In accordance with 90-1-181 and 90-1-182, MCA, the Dept. of Commerce "may conduct on behalf of local governments a socioeconomic impact review and analysis of significant federal land management proposals". This one-page report states that the Dept. of Commerce has not received any requests of this type from local governments.

State-Tribal Economic Development Commission Report (August 2014)

This report contains a list of the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission's duties and activities, special projects for the current biennium, and funding recommendations for the Indian Country Economic Development Program.

The Economic Impact of the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology (March 2014)

This report is a study of the effects on the Montana economy of the operations of the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology (MBRCT), a program established by the Montana Legislature in 2000 to encourage economic development through investment in Montana-based research projects with a clear path to commercialization.

Treasure State Endowment Program: 2017 Biennium Project Funding Recommendations and 2015 Biennium Emergency, Planning, and Project Grants Report

Treasure State Endowment Program grant applications for infrastructure projects to be funded with 2017 biennium funding are currently being ranked and scored by the Department. Once this process is complete, the Department will recommend infrastructure projects to be funded, including the amount of grant assistance for each project, and submit these recommendations to the Governor. The Governor will then review the recommendations and submit the recommendations to the Legislature. The Legislature will make the final decisions and necessary appropriations. The Department must also provide a summary of those 2015 biennium grant awards that have not met start-up conditions by September 30, 2014. The report is expected to be available electronically on the Department website at <http://comdev.mt.gov/Grantsbureau/grantsbureau.mcp> in November or December 2014.

Wood Products Revolving Loan Fund Report (2014 Update)

This report, as required by 90-1-503, MCA, provides an update of the Wood Products Revolving Loan Fund program established by passage of HB 669 during the 2009 legislative session. Among other items, the report provides lists of companies who have received program loans and employment figures for these companies.

Dept. of Corrections

2013 Compliance Inspection Report

This report, submitted in compliance with 53-30-604(4), MCA, consists of a 1-page letter stating the results of the 2011 license and performance review and 2012 license review of the Crossroads Correctional Center.

Statewide Reentry Task Force Report (June 2014)

This report, submitted in compliance with 46-23-903, MCA, details the Statewide Reentry Task Force's findings and recommendations related to developing and supporting successful reentry initiatives in Montana.

Dept. of Environmental Quality

Environmental Enforcement and Compliance, State Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013

This report, submitted by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as required by 75-1-314, MCA, summarizes the permitting, compliance assistance, and enforcement work conducted by the DEQ during the FY2012 and FY2013 reporting period.

Petroleum Tank Release Site Closure Update (June 21, 2014)

This one-page report, submitted in accordance with 75-11-521, MCA, lists the status of cleanup benchmarks as required by that section.

Report to the Environmental Quality Council on Progress Toward Numeric Nutrient Standards for Montana's Surface Waters (August 2014)

This report, submitted in accordance with 75-5-313, MCA, looks at efforts by the Dept. of Environmental Quality to manage nutrient enrichment of Montana waters. It includes a look at the background of the establishment of nutrient standards and issues regarding such standards.

State Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plan Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) — 2013 Update (December 10, 2013)

This report is an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan as required by 75-10-807, MCA.

TMDL Development Progress and Schedule Report (July 2014)

This two-page report, submitted in accordance with 75-5-703(3), states the current progress in completing TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) and the proposed schedule for completion of TMDLs for the identified water bodies.

Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

2013 Forest Inventory and Sustained Yield Calculation (December 31, 2013)

This report provides a forest inventory and an annual sustained yield calculation on the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Park's forest land as required by 87-1-622, MCA.

Biennial Progress Report — FWP Water Leasing Study — 2012 & 2013

This report, submitted in accordance with 85-2-436(4), MCA, states that no new leases or conversion of water rights to instream flow were perfected by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks during the biennium and that no existing leases were renewed during the 2012 and 2013 reporting period. It provides a summary of current and past leases as well as a brief overview of leasing program and statutory authorities.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Maintenance Accounts Report (As of June 30, 2013)

This report lists expenditures related to various maintenance funds that the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks administers.

Future Fisheries Improvement Program — Report to the 2015 Legislature and the Fish and Wildlife Commission

This report, to be completed by mid-December 2014, summarizes program goals, staffing, appropriations, and review panel appointments. It also provides a brief narrative description of all projects approved since last reporting period, as well as all associated expenditures, and presents an estimate of anticipated expenses for the ensuing 10 years. Lastly, the report provides a summary of project effectiveness monitoring.

Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2013 Annual Report

This annual report, a cooperative effort by the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, USDA Wildlife Services, Glacier National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Blackfoot Nation, and The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, presents information on the status, distribution, and management of wolves in the State of Montana from January 1 to December 31, 2013.

Private Land/Public Wildlife Council Report

This report, required by 87-1-269, MCA, is expected to be completed by January 2015. It will include "recommendations that might help improve relationships among Montana hunters, anglers, landowners, outfitters, and FWP, and improve access to Montana private and public land while recognizing the contributions of Montana landowners in providing habitat for Montana public wildlife resources and access opportunities for public hunters and anglers".

Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program FY 2013 Annual Report (December 2013)

This annual progress report serves as a summary of program outcomes and progress for fiscal year 2013. Fiscal summaries are provided and program accomplishments are highlighted.

Dept. of Justice

Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission Report

While the Commission's meetings and records are confidential, 2-15-2017, MCA, requires it to publish a report detailing its findings and recommendations each legislative session. This report is expected to be available by January 2015.

Montana False Claims Act Report (January 2014)

This report consists of a letter from the Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to the Law and Justice Interim Committee providing false claim information as required by 17-8-416, MCA.

Dept. of Labor and Industry

Montana State Apprenticeship Program, Biennial Report for 2013 & 2014

This report contains an introduction describing the program's mission and then is divided into informational topics. The topics include: history and administration of the program; program activities for the biennium; special projects; projections, goals and program statistics. The report, required under 39-6-101(2), MCA, is comprehensive concerning the major aspects of the program but is designed for quick reading.

Domestic Violence Report

The report, as required 39-51-2111, MCA, provides demographics on domestic violence and associated unemployment benefits.

Professional & Occupational Licensing Report — FY 2012 & FY 2013

This report contains a general description of the Licensing and Board Management Bureaus, and the accomplishments of the boards and programs during the last biennium. The report also includes a breakdown of revenue and expenditures, legislation, court actions, and statistical reports of the boards' activities. Finally, the report lists statistics regarding the number of complaints on licensees received and reviewed by each board.

Dept. of Military Affairs

Montana Board of Veterans Affairs Biennial Report — July 1, 2014

The Board of Veterans Affairs' biennial report provides an overview and accounting of the Board's and its Veterans Affairs Division's composition, mission, major program initiatives of previous biennium, agency organizational structure and office contact information, veteran demographics (Montana total and county breakdown), service provision's financial impact to citizenry, production data specific to both the veterans services and veteran cemetery programs, and the division's expenditure report as produced by the Legislative Fiscal Division.

Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Enforcement and Compliance Report (December 2013)

The report, submitted in accordance with 75-1-314, MCA, contains information specific to each division in DNRC with enforcement and compliance responsibilities. The reporting entities include the Forestry Assistance Program, Oil and Gas Conservation Division, Trust Land Management Division, and Water Resources Division.

HB 22 Adjudication Progress (September 2014)

This report, submitted in accordance with 85-2-281, MCA, highlights basin location and water adjudication progress as mandated by HB 22 (Ch. 288), passed during the 2005 legislative session.

Land Banking Report (July 2014)

This report, as required by 77-2-366, MCA, lists the state land banking program's sales and acquisitions from 2006 through June 30, 2014.

Montana State Water Plan 2015

The 2015 State Water Plan is a synthesis of the vision and efforts of regional Basin Advisory Councils (BACs) established in Montana's four main river basins: the Clark Fork/Kootenai, Upper Missouri, Lower Missouri, and the Yellowstone. (See Montana Water Supply Initiative heading below.) In contrast to the detail rich basin plans, the State Water Plan provides a high-level overview of the state's water resources and lays out a path for managing those resources over the next 20 years. Although the State Water Plan is a standalone document, its foundation rests on the work of the BACs and the information contained within the individual basin plans.

Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program — Program Update (February 25, 2014)

This report summarizes the current status of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) program. The biennial report includes summaries of each project recommended for funding to the 2013 Legislature and contains a comprehensive description of RRGL program policies and procedures.

Report to the Environmental Quality Council on SB369 Cabin and Home Site Sales (July 2014)

This report, submitted in accordance with 77-2-366, MCA, provides a summary of land sales of those lands that were state land cabin or home sites pursuant to 77-2-318, MCA, and efforts by the department to comply with the requirements of that section.

Dept. of Public Health & Human Services

Montana Marijuana Program Registry Information

This report, submitted in accordance with 50-46-303, MCA, provides data from December 2013 through October 2014 regarding the number of patients with current enrollment in the Montana Medical Marijuana Program, along with the number of providers and physicians associated with those patients.

Montana Trauma System Report – Implementation of 50-6-402 MCA

This report describes trauma system strategies that are aimed at preventing and/or minimizing injury and death, as well as, improving outcomes of victims of traumatic injury. The report describes prevention and treatment activities including:

- Continual development of an inclusive, regionalized system which includes trauma educated healthcare providers and hospitals;
- Sustained implementation of rules which authorize designation of trauma centers and provides professional recognition of facilities that meet trauma standards of care; and
- Maintain solid data collection through a statewide trauma registry that is actively used for performance improvement.

Older Montanans Trust Fund Report

This report, submitted in accordance with 52-3-115, MCA, provides a brief history of the Older Montanans Trust Fund, which was established by SB 155 in July of 2007. It also gives an update on the balance of the Fund as of July 1, 2014.

Out-of-State Placement of Children

These reports (from August 2013, March 2014, and August 2014) fulfill the requirement of 52-2-311, MCA, that DPHHS report biannually to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee concerning the information it has collected about out-of-state placements and the results of efforts to reduce out-of-state placements for high risk children with multi-agency service needs.

Section 1115 Basic Medicaid Waiver Update

This report, mandated by 53-2-215, consists of a one-page memo which provides an update on Montana's Section 1115 Basic Medicaid Waiver Amendment Extension request, submitted on August 16, 2010.

Statewide 2-1-1 System Legislative Report

This one-page report, submitted in accordance with 53-1-714, MCA, gives a brief description of the establishment and activities of the state 2-1-1 system related to disaster emergency, safety, health, or human services topics.

Suicide Prevention in Montana — Legislative Update

This report is an executive summary of the 2015 Montana Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan. It provides numerous facts and statistics regarding suicides in Montana and includes a list of objectives and interventions being implemented for suicide prevention within the state.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Parents as Scholars Report (State Fiscal Year 2014)

During the 2011 Legislative session, Senate Bill 385 created the *Parents As Scholars* Program. This report, in accordance with 53-4-209, MCA, describes that program and provides outcomes for state fiscal year 2014 as well as an overview for the past 3 fiscal years.

Dept. of Revenue

Biennial Report (July 1, 2012 — June 30, 2014)

This report, in accordance with 15-1-205, MCA, provides detailed information on taxes administered by the Dept. of Revenue and related collections activity for the FY2013-2014 biennium.

Governor's Office

Board of Pardons and Parole Biennial Report (January 2015)

This comprehensive report provides a description and history of the Montana Board of Pardons and Parole, as well as a discussion of the Board's goals, objectives, and duties.

Board of Pardons and Parole - Executive Clemency Report (2012)

Board of Pardons and Parole - Executive Clemency Report (2014)

These reports summarize all grants of executive clemency by this and previous governors, dating back to 1975, identifying the type of clemency, the name of the person granted clemency, the crime committed, the reason clemency was granted, and other matters required by statute to be submitted.

Gender and Racial Balance on Boards, Commissions and Councils (August 2014)

A one-page report of the positive action taken to attain gender balance and proportional representation of minorities in gubernatorial appointments by Governor Steve Bullock.

Judicial Branch

Judicial Branch Information Technology Report to Law and Justice Interim Committee (June 2014)

This report is submitted in compliance with 3-1-702, MCA, which requires the court administrator to report to the Law and Justice Interim Committee on the status of development and procurement of information technology (IT) within the Judicial Branch. The report provides a Judicial Branch IT profile and a progress report on recent IT projects.

Report of the Judicial Standards Commission (Montana Supreme Court, Office of Court Administrator)

This report provides statistics covering complaints against Montana judicial officers submitted to the Judicial Standards Commission for calendar years 2013 and 2014.

Legislative Branch

Environmental Quality Council, Legislative Environmental Policy Office

Eminent Domain in Montana

In 1999, the 56th Montana Legislature concluded that because legislators and citizens alike were confused or not fully versed on the statutes relating to eminent domain, a careful and deliberate study was warranted. House Joint Resolution No. 34 (HJR 34) was passed, and the Legislative Council assigned HJR 34 to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC), an interim, bipartisan, 17-member committee that includes both legislators and public members.

HJR 34 stated that the "use of the power of eminent domain is not well understood". The Subcommittee agreed with this statement and, to resolve the issue, voted to create an easy-to-understand handbook. *Eminent Domain in Montana* was developed by the EQC to help Montana's citizens better understand eminent domain laws in a format that is user-friendly and answers frequently asked questions. This is the latest update of the handbook.

Evaluating Federal Land Management in Montana (An identification of significant risks, concerns, and solutions)

The 63rd Legislature passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 15 (SJR 15), which authorized an interim study evaluating the management of certain federal lands, specifically U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in Montana. The study was assigned to the Environmental Quality Council (EQC), and this report is a summary of the EQC's work on the subject. Members received additional information and public testimony in regards to the study, and this report is an effort to highlight key information and the processes followed by the EQC in reaching its conclusions.

On the Hook: The Future of Fish and Wildlife Funding in Montana

The 63rd Legislature passed House Bill No. 609, which authorized a study of Montana's hunting and fishing license system. This report summarizes the EQC's study and incorporates the work of a citizen advisory group tasked by the governor to streamline and simplify the license system. The EQC's study resulted in 12 findings and recommendations, as well as a bill draft, LC 385, which would increase certain license fees, create a base hunting license, and make other changes to the licensing system.

SJR 4 Study of State-owned Properties at Virginia City, Nevada City, and Reeder's Alley

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) requested SJR 4 for consideration by the 2013 Legislature upon completion of a study conducted during the 2011-2012 interim of state parks and outdoor recreation and heritage resource programs. SJR 4 reflected the Council's opinion that the work it had begun the previous interim to review management of state-owned properties at Virginia City, Nevada City, and Reeder's Alley in Helena had been beneficial and should continue.

The study focused on how that balance might be achieved and ways the Legislature may be able to assist the MHC by removing any statutory impediments to effective management and by establishing an understanding among legislators of the value of the sites to the state and the communities in which the properties are located.

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

A Citizen's Guide to Montana Energy Law

An Electricity Law Handbook was first developed by the legislative Environmental Quality Council in 2002 and has been revised every 2 years. The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) oversees regular updates to the document in an effort to help Montana citizens better understand our electricity laws and the most recent changes to those laws. During the 2011-2012 interim, the ETIC oversaw a reorganization of *An Electricity Law Handbook* and during the 2013-2014 interim, the committee updated and revised the publication. The result is *A Citizen's Guide to Montana Energy Law*. The information contained in this guide is much the same as that contained in *An Electricity Law Handbook*. However, it has been updated, reorganized, and redesigned. It is the result of input and review from legislators, consumers, public interest groups, industry representatives, state regulators, and interested citizens.

Renewable Rewards and Risks: A look at the impacts of Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard

The 2013 Montana Legislature passed and approved SJR 6, which requested an interim committee review Montana's renewable portfolio standard, also known as the "RPS". The study committee was instructed to focus on the economic impacts of the RPS, the environmental impacts of the standard, and the impacts the RPS has had on Montana consumers. The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee conducted the study and ultimately approved this final report, containing committee findings and recommendations, with one recommendation being that the RPS remain static at the requirement of 15 percent renewable energy generation by 2015.

Understanding Energy in Montana

Energy issues continue to receive significant public attention and scrutiny in Montana. The Environmental Quality Council first prepared this guide in 2002. It was revised again in 2004 and 2010. The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) in 2013 agreed to revise the document to provide the most up-to-date background information available to policymakers and citizens alike. For the 2013-2014 guide a new, Renewable Energy in Montana section has been added.

The guide focuses on historical and current patterns of energy supply and demand. It is divided into six sections. First is an overview of electricity supply and demand in Montana. The second section covers the electricity transmission system, especially how it works in Montana and the Pacific Northwest. This is the critical issue affecting access to existing markets and the potential for new generation in Montana. A third section addresses natural gas supply and demand, important in its own right and intertwined with the electricity industry. The fourth section covers the Montana coal industry, which fuels the generation of electricity, is an important export, and whose future is dependent upon changes in the electric industry and world markets. The fifth section addresses petroleum, the sector most directly affected by international events. The final section discusses renewable energy development in Montana and the potential for that sector to grow in the future.

Water Policy Interim Committee

HJ26 Report: Intersection Interests of Estate Owners and Ditch Owners

Canals and ditches have been integral to Montana's agricultural economy. This study examines conflicts that may arise between a ditch owner and a landowner. A landowner may wish to place bridges over ditches, change a canal route, or make other alterations. By law and without exceptions, the ditch owner must agree to the action. The study contemplates the legal framework in other states and considers a recent Montana Supreme Court decision perhaps allowing for "reasonableness," but offers no specific recommendations.

Legislative Services Division

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

Considering the Health and Well-Being of Montanans

This final report summarizes the committee's studies of prescription drug abuse and of the state-operated institutions serving people with a mental illness, intellectual disability, or substance abuse disorder. It also summarizes the committee's work in monitoring the state Medicaid program and other activities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Fee-Financed Government – Issues Raised by Licensing Boards and Other Agencies Before the 2013-2014 Economic Affairs Interim Committee

The final report of the activities of the 2013-2014 Economic Affairs Interim Committee includes information related to two studies assigned by Legislative Council, SJR 24 and HJR 25, in addition to normal reviews of agencies and a synopsis of activities related to licensing boards. SJR 24 addresses implementation by the Department of Labor and Industry's licensing boards of bills that required recognition that military training may be equivalent to civilian training for applicants seeking professional or occupational licenses. HJR 25 required a study of various aspects of workers' compensation, including subrogation and the structure of Montana State Fund, a state-created entity that provides workers' compensation insurance to any Montana employers (excepting those that are delinquent on their bills).

Licensed to Bill: How Licensing Boards Function with Government Endorsement

This is the final report of a study that took place across the 2011-2012 and the 2013-2014 interims. Under House Bill No. 525 in the 2011 Legislature, the Economic Affairs Interim Committee was to conduct a review of licensing boards and determine whether they ought to be retained or recommended to be repealed. All the licensing boards received a recommendation to remain, although there was consideration of revising the regulatory authority over one of the boards. The committee ultimately decided not to have a committee bill to address the Board of Private Alternative Adolescent Residential or Outdoor Programs. The report details information received from a survey of licensees and the public to which more than 2,000 people responded. However, only a small percentage of the 90,000-plus licensees in the state responded. The report also provides responses from board members regarding their perceptions of the benefits of boards. Comments and concerns outlined at various EAIC meetings by members of the public or licensees about their boards also are included.

Education and Local Government Interim Committee

New Frontiers in Education and Local Government

This final report summarizes the work of the 2013-2014 Education and Local Government Interim Committee, including the committee's work on House Joint Resolution No. 2, an investigation of electronic records management by state and local government.

Law and Justice Interim Committee

Law, Order, and Everything in Between: Studying Montana's Parole and Domestic Relations Laws (October 2014)

This final report summarizes the work of the 2013-2014 Law and Justice Interim Committee.

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

Final Legislative Redistricting Plan (Based on the 2010 Census)

Montana Legislative Services Division staff prepared this report in support of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission, as required in 5-1-106, MCA. The report provides background on the work of the Commission, which was appointed in the spring of 2009 and continued its work through early 2013. The commission is authorized in Article V, section 14, of the Montana Constitution to adjust congressional and legislative district lines after each federal decennial census.

Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee

Tax Appeals and Oversize Loads: A Final Report of the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee

This final report provides an overview of the studies of the taxpayer appeal process and the movement of oversize loads in Montana including committee recommendations and legislation. The report also includes the committee's recommendations related to required reports and advisory councils, an overview of its revenue estimating activities, and a summary of agency updates from the Departments of Revenue and Transportation.

Montana Board of Crime Control

Status of Restorative Justice Grant Program

This report satisfies the requirements of 2-15-2013, MCA, regarding the status and performance of the restorative justice grant

Montana Historical Society

Biennial Report to the Governor and the Legislature (August 2014)

This report, required by 22-3-107, MCA, lists key themes relative to the Montana Historical Society and strategic issues the Society faced in the 2013-2014 biennium.

Montana's Shared Heritage — Second Biennial Report on the Status, Condition, and Stewardship of Montana's State-owned Heritage Properties (August 2014)

In 2011, Montana's 62nd Legislature passed Senate Bill 3 amending 22-3-422, 22-3-423, and 22-3-424, MCA, to require state agencies and the Montana university system to biennially report to the Preservation Review Board on the status and maintenance needs of the agencies' heritage properties. The findings from this reporting are to be conveyed by the State Historic Preservation Officer to the legislature, along with recommendations regarding management of the properties.

Montana State Library

Montana Land Information Act — FY 2014-2015

This report, submitted in accordance with 90-1-404, MCA, highlights the accomplishments of the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure and discusses the Montana Land Information Act grant program.

Montana Water Supply Initiative

Clark Fork River Basin Task Force

Montana Water Supply Initiative — Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins — Recommendations Development Report (June 2014)

The Clark Fork River Basin Task Force is currently working with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to update and revise the State Water Plan. This report describes the process the Task Force went through to develop recommendations to address water management issues facing the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins, and includes the list of agreed-upon recommendations. The recommendations will become the central element of the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Plan. Recommendations with statewide implications will join those from the Upper and Lower Missouri and Yellowstone River Basins to form the State Water Plan. The recommendations in this report represent the beginning of an iterative planning process to manage water more effectively in the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins.

Lower Missouri Basin Advisory Council

Recommendation Development Report (May 2014)

This report describes in detail the issues and recommendations the Lower Missouri River Basin Advisory Council identified relative to the Basin. It highlights the lengthy process the Council went through to identify these issues and recommendations, which will be incorporated into the Montana Water Supply Initiative.

Upper Missouri Basin Advisory Council

Recommendations Development Report — Water Resource Issues and Recommendations for Solving Them for Incorporation in the Upper Missouri Basin Watershed Management Plan (June 2014)

This is a report of the work of the Upper Missouri Basin Advisory Council to: 1) identify and study critical water resource issues in the Upper Missouri Basin; and 2) develop recommendations on water issues of vital importance to the people of Montana for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to include in its Montana Water Supply Initiative recommendations to the 2015 Montana Legislature.

Yellowstone Basin Advisory Council

Recommendation Development Report (December 2013)

This report describes in detail the issues and recommendations the Yellowstone Basin Advisory Council identified relative to the Basin. It highlights the lengthy process the Council went through to identify these issues and recommendations, which will be incorporated into the Montana Water Supply Initiative.

Office of the Public Instruction

At-Risk Student Report, 2014

This is a report on the change in status of standardized test scores, graduation rates, and drop out rates of at-risk students in Montana' K 12 public schools.

Montana American Indian Student Achievement Data Report, Fall 2014

This is a report on the change in status of standardized test scores, graduation rates, and drop out rates of American Indian students in Montana' K 12 public schools.

Report on the Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

As required by 20-1-231, MCA, this report provides a summary of the state's participation in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the activities and discussions of the Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children during FY 2014.

Office of the State Public Defender

Montana Public Defender Commission Fiscal Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014 Reports to the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature

These reports include:

1. All policies and procedures in effect for the operation and administration of the statewide public defender system and all standards established or being considered by the Montana Public Defender Commission or the chief public defender.
2. The number of deputy public defenders and the region supervised by each; the number of public defenders employed or contracted within the system, identified by region; and the number of attorney and non-attorney staff supervised by each deputy public defender.
3. The number of new cases in which counsel was assigned to represent a party, identified by region, court, and case type; and the total number of persons represented by the office, identified by region, court, and case type.
4. The annual caseload and workload of each public defender, identified by region, court, and case type.
5. The training programs conducted by the office and the number of attorney and non-attorney staff who attended each program; and the continuing education courses on criminal defense or criminal procedure attended by each public defender employed or contracted within the system.
6. Detailed expenditure data by court and case type.

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