

**TO: Legislative Consumer Committee**  
**FROM: Jason T. Brown**  
**DATE: June 8, 2023**  
**RE: Role of Legislative Consumer Committee**

Below is a summary of the statutes concerning the Legislative Consumer Committee and its function.

The office of Consumer Counsel is established in the Montana Constitution, Art. XIII, § 2, which requires the Legislature to provide for the office and its funding through a tax on regulated companies. The role of the Consumer Counsel is set forth in §§ 69-2-201 through 69-2-217 of the Montana Code Annotated ("MCA").

Sections 5-15-101 through 5-15-105, MCA establish the Legislative Consumer Committee. These provisions address the manner of appointment to the Committee, term of office and election of officers.

Further functions of the Committee are addressed in §§ 5-15-201, 69-1-211, 69-1-212 and 69-1-221, MCA. Section 5-15-201 requires the Committee to appoint a Consumer Counsel and set the Consumer Counsel's salary. Section 69-1-212 notes the compensation to which Committee members are entitled. Section 69-1-211 requires quarterly Committee meetings. Section 69-1-221 allows the Consumer Counsel to, with the approval of the Committee, appoint employees and consultants necessary to carry out its duties.

Please let me know if you have any questions about these provisions.

Jason T. Brown  
Montana Consumer Counsel