

MONTANA LEGISLATURE – Year-round Presence

Prepared for Legislative Council

December, 2021

Senate & House of Representatives

- November and December before session – Caucus & Orientation and Other Training
- Session every odd-numbered year for 4 months
- 13 House Standing Committees, 3 On-call Committees, plus any Select Committees
- 13 Senate Standing Committees, 4 On-call Committees, plus any Select Committees
- Daily Floor Sessions

Legislative Audit Division

Legislative Audit Committee – meets 4-5 times a year, as needed

State of Montana Single Audit

Financial Compliance Audits of every state agency every 2 years: Average 26/year

Performance Audits: Average 6/year

Information Services Audits: Average 5/year

Legislative Fiscal Division

Legislative Finance Committee – meets quarterly to receive financial reports on each agency

- HB 2, SITSD, Pensions, Required Reports (18 on December 2020)

NEW: 6 Interim Budget Committees – meet quarterly reviewing agency budgets

Last 2 interims: Financial Modernization and Risk Analysis (MARA) – meets quarterly

Legislative Services Division

Legislative Council – meets every 2-3 months

Research/LEPO Offices

- Staff and manage 13 Interim Committees which meet every two months
- 28 Interim Studies
- Administrative Rule Review
- Staff Districting and Apportionment Commission which meets every 10 years (2019 through 2023)
- Staff Special Select Committee on Judicial Accountability – meets as needed

Legal Office

- Supports the 13 interim committees, D&A Commission, and Select committees
- Administration Rule Review and Ballot Initiative Review
- Codification and Annotations for the Montana Code Annotated and related publications

Office of Legislative Information Technology

- IT and AV development, maintenance, operation, and support for the Branch IT Needs
- Information Technology Planning Council – meets in even-number year to prepare Branch IT budget for following session

- Supports MPAN and AV use in all legislative rooms, both chambers, all committees
- Supports all MCA and related publications
- Supports website

Financial and Human Resources for the Branch

- Payroll, budgets and accounts for the three divisions, House, and Senate, audit billing, committee support, provides documentation for Branch audit
- Recruitment, policies, compensation, safety, job analysis

Legislative Consumer Committee

Meets 3-4 times a year

Website – Leg.mt.gov

- LAWS – provides information on all bills, committee meetings, journals, rules
- SLIQ – provide live streaming of all committee meetings and other events – includes minutes
- Committee websites for all legislative committees
- The Gavel – online newsletter & calendar of events

Montana Public Affairs Network (MPAN) – live broadcasts for television and rebroadcasts

- During session - provides gavel-to-gavel daily coverage of the Senate and House floor sessions and several committee meetings.
- During interim – covers interim committee meetings and other state agency meetings, i.e. Land Board, Fish and Wildlife Commission, Board of Public Education, etc.
- Spectrum Cable Channel 191 and other MT PBS channels

Other

- All divisions respond to information requests for legislators and certain public requests
- Records requests often require director, OLIS, and FHRO resources