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Legislative Council – Legislative Space Workgroup

68th Montana Legislature

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TO: Legislative Council Members
FROM: The Legislative Space Workgroup
RE: Long-Range Legislative Branch Capital Development Plan
DATE: March 14, 2024

Based on feedback received at the November 6, 2023, meeting of the Legislative Council, the Space Plan Workgroup modified its Long-Range Legislative Branch Capital Development Plan as follows.

The modified report:

- Identifies the optimal long-range space requirements of the legislature and its supporting professional staff;
- Acknowledges that broad legislative input and additional study are necessary to determine whether capital improvements are necessary;
- Removes the recommendation for capital improvement;
- Clarifies that some program elements are ideally suited to be within the Capitol Building, while others may be more effectively designed if located in a facility outside of the Capitol Building.

In compliance with the requirements of HB 856, the Space Plan Workgroup respectfully submits this modified report that contains:

- Recommendations based on stakeholder input about necessary space requirements;
- An impartial analysis by the design team about the optimal long-range space requirements;
- An impartial determination by the design team that the existing historic Capitol is not capable of supporting the optimal space needs without additional space allocated outside of the historic Capitol Building;
- Recognition that this report is a framework based on optimal conditions, and that future implementation could vary from optimal yet still be effective;
- An acknowledgment that further study is required to determine the highest/best use priorities for the legislature and its staff before any solution is implemented.

Representative Rhonda Knudsen
Presiding Officer

Senator Jason Ellsworth
President of the Senate

Representative Derek Harvey

Senator Pat Flowers
Senate Minority Leader