



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Jason Ellsworth
Steve Fitzpatrick
Pat Flowers
Shannon O'Brien
Susan Webber

HOUSE MEMBERS

Kim Abbott
Alice Buckley
Derek Harvey
Rhonda Knudsen
Matt Regier
Sue Vinton

COMMITTEE STAFF

Todd Everts - Legal Division Director
Jerry Howe - Executive Director
Daniel Rosenberg - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

November 06, 2023
Capitol Room 137
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Matt Regier, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Everts, Legal Division Director
Jerry Howe, Executive Director
Daniel Rosenberg, Secretary

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)**VISITORS' LIST** [\(Attachment 2\)](#)**COMMITTEE ACTION****CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

12:03:38 Presiding Officer Regier called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**Introduction of New Research Director**

12:05:12 Jerry Howe, Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

New Employees

12:07:07 Dale Gow, CIO, LSD

Increase in Demand for Remote Meetings: Action Item

12:08:59 Jerry Howe

Committee Questions/ Discussion

12:18:00 Sen. Ellsworth
12:19:24 Rep. Vinton
12:21:07 Rep. Knudsen
12:22:51 Sen. Bogner
12:23:08 Presiding Officer Regier
12:23:35 Sen. O'Brien
12:25:43 Presiding Officer Regier

Motion

12:26:24 Rep. Knudsen moved to instruct the Legislative Services Director to prioritize working on the ongoing IT projects with allowing for remote meeting participation on a case by case basis, if and when staff is available, while also keeping the building projects top priority.

Discussion on the Motion

12:27:11 Rep. Vinton
12:28:05 Presiding Officer Regier

Vote

12:28:18 The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Parking: Action Item

12:28:27 Jerry Howe

Committee Questions/ Discussion

12:30:01 Sen. O'Brien

12:30:19 Rep. Knudsen

12:30:49 Presiding Officer Regier

Committee Room Technology Pilot

12:31:05 Jerry Howe

OBH Network Upgrades

12:32:37 Jerry Howe

Committee Questions/ Discussion

12:34:57 Rep. Vinton

12:35:05 Russ Katherman, Administrator, Architecture and Engineering Division

12:36:58 Presiding Officer Regier

12:38:06 Rep. Vinton

12:39:50 Presiding Officer Regier directed a question to Dale Gow.

12:40:55 Sen. Bogner directed a question to Russ Katherman.

12:42:22 Sen. Ellsworth proposed creating a subcommittee for budget items.

12:43:44 Rep. Vinton

Motion

12:44:04 Rep. Harvey moved to approve the \$200,000 expenditure for the OBH network upgrades.

Discussion on the Motion

12:44:45 Sen. Ellsworth

Vote

12:44:45 The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Sen Webber voted "aye" by proxy.

LEGAL OFFICE UPDATE**Codification**

12:45:30 Todd Everts, Legal Director, LSD

Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act

12:47:44 Jaret Coles, Deputy Legal Director, LSD

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

12:53:46 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers

Hiring Schedule

12:55:39 Todd Everts

Committee Questions/ Discussion

12:56:39 Presiding Officer Regier asked about the codification timeframe.

RESEARCH OFFICE UPDATE

Interim Report

12:57:21 Rachel Weiss, Research Director, LSD

Committee Questions/ Discussion

13:00:29 Presiding Officer Regier

Organizational Change to Research Office

13:02:08 Rachel Weiss

Committee Questions/ Discussion

13:04:44 Rep. Knudsen

FINANCE OFFICE UPDATE

Program 21 Legislator Travel Report

13:05:41 Angie Carter, Financial Manager, LSD
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

13:08:13 Presiding Officer Regier

13:09:33 Rep. Vinton

Reimbursement Claim Form: Action Item

13:10:35 Angie Carter
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

13:13:31 Sen. Bogner

13:13:43 Presiding Officer Regier

Motion

13:14:12 Rep. Vinton moved to approve the new statement of expense form for legislators as presented.

Discussion on the Motion

13:14:36 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers

13:14:45 Angie Carter described travel expense examples. ([see EXHIBIT 4](#))

13:17:22 Rep. Vinton

13:18:10 Rep. Knudsen

13:18:50 Presiding Officer Regier

Vote

13:19:03 The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

OLIS UPDATE**Hiring Schedule**

13:19:12 Dale Gow, CIO, LSD

Project Update

13:21:08 Dale Gow

IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE ACT

13:35:47 Amy Carlson, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

14:02:36 Presiding Officer Regier
14:03:26 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers
14:03:43 Jerry Howe
14:05:05 Rep. Vinton
14:05:52 Sen. Ellsworth
14:06:10 Sen. O'Brien
14:06:32 Sen. Ellsworth

Motion

14:07:09 Sen. Ellsworth moved to go forward with legislative week as described by Amy Carlson.

Discussion on the Motion

14:07:25 Amy Carlson
14:07:44 Presiding Officer Regier
14:08:30 Jerry Howe

Motion

14:08:43 Sen. Ellsworth clarified the motion to schedule legislative week after the primaries in June.

Discussion on the Motion

14:08:56 Presiding Officer Regier
14:09:51 Jerry Howe
14:10:01 Sen. Ellsworth
14:10:29 Presiding Officer Regier
14:11:18 Rep. Knudsen
14:12:15 Jerry Howe

Vote

14:12:36 The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Webber voted 'aye' by proxy.
([Attachment 4](#))

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR MOVE UPDATE

14:13:15 Angus Maciver, Director, Legislative Audit Division (LAD)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

14:15:44 Presiding Officer Regier

14:17:23 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

RECESS

14:19:51 Reconvened at 2:33 p.m.

TEMPORARY PLAN TO ALLOCATE SPACE FOR THE 2025 SESSION ONLY

14:33:50 Joe Triem, Deputy Director, LFD
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

14:46:32 Presiding Officer Regier

14:47:25 Rep. Knudsen

14:48:01 Sen. Ellsworth

14:57:18 Sen. Vinton

14:57:50 Sen. Ellsworth

14:59:06 Dale Gow

15:03:11 Sen. Ellsworth

15:04:38 Rep. Harvey

15:06:31 Rep. Vinton

Motion

15:09:00 Sen. Ellsworth moved to adopt the space plan but segregate room 412 for a Senate bullpen.

Discussion on the Motion

15:09:44 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers

15:10:44 Sen. Ellsworth

15:11:42 Sen. Fitzpatrick

15:13:19 Sen. Bogner

15:14:01 Marilyn Miller, Secretary of the Senate

15:16:53 Presiding Officer Regier

15:17:41 Sen. Fitzpatrick

15:18:31 Sen. Ellsworth

15:18:47 Sen. Bogner

15:19:53 Sen. O'Brien
15:20:36 Presiding Officer Regier
15:21:56 Rep. Knudsen
15:23:30 Sen. Ellsworth

Motion

15:24:27 Sen. Ellsworth restated the motion to adopt the plan as it is but Room 412 would be a Senate Bullpen.

Discussion on the Motion

15:25:15 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers
15:26:11 Rep. Harvey

Motion

15:27:02 Sen. Ellsworth withdrew the motion and made a motion to adopt the space plan as is.

Vote

15:27:20 The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE SPACE WORKGROUP: FINAL REPORT

15:28:04 Rep. Knudsen

RECESS

15:30:30 Reconvened at 3:39 p. m.

LEGISLATIVE SPACE WORKGROUP: FINAL REPORT

15:39:32 Gregg Sanders, Hennebery Eddy Architects
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Committee Questions/ Discussion

15:42:01 Sen. O'Brien
15:46:06 Presiding Officer Regier
15:47:12 Sen. Fitzpatrick
16:03:32 Rep. Vinton
16:24:44 Rep. Vinton
16:33:17 Rep. Knudsen
16:35:31 Gregg Sanders
16:36:13 Presiding Officer Regier
16:37:04 Rep. Harvey
16:39:48 Rep. Vinton
16:40:47 Sen. Fitzpatrick
16:42:53 Sen. O'Brien
16:44:18 Sen. Ellsworth

16:45:37 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers
16:47:23 Presiding Officer Regier
16:47:50 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers
16:49:23 Rep. Knudsen

Motion

16:50:33 Rep. Knudsen moved to accept the Report as the long-range plan requested by the legislature.

Discussion on the Motion

16:50:40 Presiding Officer Regier
16:51:10 Sen. Ellsworth
16:51:45 Todd Everts
16:54:41 Presiding Officer Regier
16:55:00 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers
16:56:04 Sen. Ellsworth
16:56:58 Rep. Vinton
16:57:36 Presiding Officer Regier
16:58:46 Sen. Bogner
16:59:28 Todd Everts
17:00:34 Rep. Knudsen
17:02:25 Sen. O'Brien
17:03:50 Sen. Ellsworth
17:04:59 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers
17:07:03 Sen. O'Brien
17:07:32 Sen. Ellsworth
17:08:16 Sen. Bogner
17:09:18 Presiding Officer Regier
17:10:38 Vice Presiding Officer Flowers
17:11:57 Presiding Officer Regier
17:14:02 Rep. Harvey
17:15:49 Sen. O'Brien

Public Comment

17:16:11 Scott Sales, Citizen
17:24:55 Sen. Dan Salomon, SD 47

Motion

17:26:44 Rep. Knudsen restated the motion to accept the document and its recommendations as the long-range plan.

Vote

17:27:27 The motion failed 7 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Harvey, Presiding Officer Regier, Rep. Vinton, voting 'aye'.
Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, By Proxy. ([Attachment 3](#))

Committee Questions/ Discussion

17:28:28 Rep. Knudsen
17:28:37 Sen. Ellsworth
17:29:02 Presiding Officer Regier
17:29:33 Rep. Harvey
17:30:01 Presiding Officer Regier
17:31:16 Sen. Ellsworth discussed creating a subcommittee to recommend expenditures to the Legislative Council.
17:32:15 Presiding Officer Regier created a subcommittee for Logistics and Appropriations with Sen. Bogner as Chair, Rep. Harvey as Vice Chair, Presiding Officer Regier and Sen. O'Brien as members.
17:34:55 Sen. Fitzpatrick
17:35:59 Presiding Officer Regier
17:37:16 Sen. O'Brien

Motion

17:37:35 Sen. O'Brien moved to take up to \$50,000 from House Bill 856 for design, layout and documentation of Capitol Rooms 10 and 64.

Vote

17:37:45 The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Public Comment

17:38:03 None

Committee Questions/ Discussion

17:38:20 Presiding Officer Regier discussed future meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

17:38:43 Presiding Officer Regier adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.