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Economic Affairs Interim Committee

65th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

GORDON VANCE--Chair
EDWARD BUTTREY
TOM FACEY
LEA WHITFORD

HOUSE MEMBERS

NATE MCCONNELL--Vice Chair
MARK NOLAND
VINCE RICCI
SHARON STEWART-PEREGOY

COMMITTEE STAFF

PATRICIA MURDO, Lead Staff
JAMESON WALKER, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

MINUTES LOG

November 7, 2017
Room 137, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides a notation 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 record 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 meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select Committees, then Interim. Once on the page for Interim Committees, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written Minutes Log, along with the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed.

Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. GORDON VANCE, Chair
REP. NATE MCCONNELL, Vice Chair

SEN. EDWARD BUTTREY
SEN. TOM FACEY

REP. MARK NOLAND
REP. VINCE RICCI
REP. SHARON STEWART-PEREGOY (phone)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

SEN. LEA WHITFORD

STAFF PRESENT

PATRICIA MURDO, Lead Staff
JAMESON WALKER, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 1](#))

AGENDA ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The Economic Affairs Interim Committee took these actions at its November 7, 2017, meeting:

- decided informally to limit further action on the study of emergency care providers, Senate Joint Resolution 32. The committee members said they may determine later whether to suggest a bill to realign the licensing statutes for emergency medical technicians into Title 37 from Title 50.
- agreed to solicit information from federal meat inspectors as well as state meat inspectors regarding oversight of meat processors in Montana.

In addition to those actions, the EAIC heard from the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce plus the Governor's Office of Economic Development as part of its duty to monitor state agencies. The committee also heard an update from the Department of Labor and Industry about initial steps taken in an active supervision case related to the Board of Dentistry.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:07 Sen. Gordon Vance called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The secretary called roll. Senators Buttrey and Whitford were excused. Rep. Stewart-Peregoy participated by phone. ([Attachment 3](#))

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES - Sen. Vance and Pat Murdo, committee staff

00:01:08 Pat Murdo referred the committee to handouts regarding agency overviews of the Department of Commerce ([Exhibit 1](#)), the Governor's Office of Economic Development ([Exhibit 2](#)), and the Department of Agriculture ([Exhibit 3](#)).

AGENCY MONITORING - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - Pam Haxby-Cote, Director

00:02:30 Ms. Haxby-Cote gave a presentation on the activities of the Department of Commerce.

00:07:19 The video "Discover Montana" was shown.

00:14:52 *Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting by phone at 10:17 a.m.*

A packet of information regarding the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development was distributed to the committee. ([Exhibit 4](#))

Questions from the Committee

00:18:31 Rep. Nate McConnell asked about the \$0.5 million award for the cowboy museum project.

00:19:46 Ms. Haxby-Cote referred the question to the Administrator of the Montana Community Development Division.

00:20:05 Jennifer Olson, Administrator of the Montana Community Development Division, discussed the history of the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame.

00:24:04 Rep. McConnell asked when the Cowboy Museum will be opened.

00:24:36 Ms. Olson ([Exhibit 5](#))

00:26:48 Rep. McConnell asked Ms. Haxby-Cote about the concerns that were raised

regarding the marketing contract that was awarded to a Wisconsin-based advertising agency.

00:27:39 Ms. Haxby-Cote

00:29:49 Sen. Tom Facey asked about the status of a manufacturing plant in Libby that had been destroyed by a fire. He also asked about a plan for keeping certain economic development programs going. He also asked about accountability and the relationship the department has with certified regional development corporations. He also asked about forming partnerships with developers in counties to distribute money through those programs.

00:35:34 Ms. Haxby-Cote

00:36:52 Rep. Vince Ricci asked for more information regarding the marketing contract.

00:37:42 Ms. Haxby-Cote

00:39:35 Rep. Ricci asked Ms. Olson about the building for the cowboy museum.

00:40:14 Ms. Olson

00:41:49 Rep. Ricci said that he would like to know what the future plans for the cowboy museum are.

00:42:56 Rep. Mark Noland asked Ms. Haxby-Cote about changes in the coal tax trust disbursements and what the effects of the changes will be for the department.

00:43:53 Ms. Haxby-Cote

00:45:03 Sen. Vance said that it looked like the cowboy museum project had gone off the rails and that Ms. Olson just assumed that the project was finished. Sen. Vance said he was wondering about any follow up on the department's part.

00:49:42 Ms. Olson

00:50:41 Rep. McConnell asked about the department making a recommendation to prevent this type of situation in the future. He said it is the responsibility of the Legislature to create and draft a bill that would have accountability built in.

00:53:15 Ms. Olson

00:53:41 Ms. Haxby-Cote

AGENCY MONITORING - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Ken Fichtler, Chief Business Development Officer

00:54:31 Mr. Fichtler

01:05:12 Mr. Fichtler distributed a document prepared by the Office of Economic Development on each state's office that is charged with economic development. **(Exhibit 6)**

Questions from the Committee

01:08:09 Rep. Noland asked about the future of the town of Colstrip.

01:08:51 Mr. Fichtler

01:10:25 Rep. Ricci said that regarding the use of wind energy, if the wind stops, one would have to rely on coal energy. He asked about the uncertainty of the use of wind energy.

01:11:16 Mr. Fichtler

01:12:23 Rep. McConnell asked about plans for replacing baby boomers who are retiring and the use of apprenticeship programs. He also asked Mr. Fichtler for ideas about workforce needs and what the role of the government would be.

01:19:11 Mr. Fichtler

AGENCY MONITORING - DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - Ben Thomas, Director

01:20:23 Mr. Thomas gave an update on the activities of the Department of Agriculture.

Questions from the Committee

01:24:37 Sen. Vance asked Mr. Thomas if the Department of Agriculture had received a letter from the Economic Affairs Interim Committee regarding the department's interest in being a part of the lab consolidation study in House Bill 661.

01:25:29 Mr. Thomas

01:25:51 Sen. Facey asked what percentage of the Department of Agriculture's budget is general fund and what is generated from fees or other sources.

01:26:12 Mr. Thomas

RULE REVIEW - Jameson Walker, staff attorney

01:27:18 Mr. Walker ([Exhibit 7](#))

01:29:36 Ms. Murdo discussed the agenda.

01:35:24 Sen. Facey asked about Rep. Stewart-Peregoy's salary for participating in the meeting by phone.

01:37:08 **LUNCH** (reconvened at 1:00 p.m.)

Sen. Buttrey was present at the afternoon portion of the meeting.

STUDIES - SJR 20 UNEMPLOYMENT STUDY

Overview of types of unemployment classifications - Barb Wagner, Department of Labor and Industry

02:59:19 Ms. Wagner ([Exhibit 8](#))

03:27:19 Ms. Wagner distributed a handout, "There's a Data Set for That!" ([Exhibit 9](#))

Questions from the Committee

03:28:00 Rep. McConnell asked about daycare, an issue referenced on pages 3 and 4 of Ms. Wagner's memo dated September 11, 2017. ([Exhibit 10](#))

03:30:23 Ms. Wagner

03:30:28 Rep. McConnell asked why data was missing on a certain segment of population who could be employed and could be added to the economic output with other resources. He also asked Ms. Wagner to clarify the privacy concerns with regard to collection of data.

03:32:08 Ms. Wagner

03:33:47 Rep. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy asked about what research is being done to look at the jobs that the baby boomers are leaving and the type of training that is required for the younger generation to take the place of baby boomers. She asked Ms. Wagner to provide that information to the committee.

03:35:53 Ms. Wagner

PUBLIC COMMENT on any item not on the agenda but relevant to the EAIC

None.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY MONITORING - Active Supervision of Boards - Judy Bovington, Chief Legal Counsel

03:37:05 Ms. Bovington reported on the department's supervision activities, specifically the written notice regarding active supervision concerns that was issued to the Board of Dentistry.

Questions from the Committee

03:42:46 Sen. Ed Buttrey asked if the decisions by the Board of Dentistry that were the subject of the notice were taken prior to passage of HB141. He also asked if reviewing past data would show any liabilities for the department in the future.

03:45:09 Ms. Bovington

Public Comment

None.

03:48:03 **BREAK** (reconvened at 2:00 p.m.)

STUDIES - SJR 32 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS - Veterans - Current Barriers and Potential Outcomes

04:01:02 Ms. Murdo referred the committee to the document "SJR 32 Overview".
([Exhibit 11](#))

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

EMT Scope of Practice Concerns - Ken Threet, Department of Labor and Industry

04:02:27 Mr. Threet provided a synopsis of the Board of Medical Examiners' role in licensing emergency care technicians. ([Exhibit 12](#))

Veterans' Concerns from Government Perspective - Joe Foster, Administrator, State of Montana Veterans' Affairs Division

04:03:49 Mr. Foster discussed the Montana Veterans' Affairs Division's management and operation of the State Veterans Cemetery Program and the Veterans' Services Program.

Veterans' Concerns from Advocates' Perspective - Roger Hagan, Montana component of the American Legion

04:05:46 Mr. Hagan ([Exhibit 13](#))

Active Military's Concerns - Major Mike Talia, JAG Attorney, Montana National Guard

04:11:44 Major Talia commented on the Department of Military Affairs' opposition to HB 612.

Suicide Prevention Providers' Concerns - Diane Banks-Mohr, Veterans' Administration, Fort Harrison Mental Health Supervisor

04:13:18 Ms. Banks-Mohr commented on the types of services that are required for obtaining the EMT certification.

Montana Law Enforcement Academy Dispatcher Trainer - Glen Stinar, Administrator

04:17:10 Mr. Stinar provided background information on the types of suicide caller training

for the dispatchers at the Law Enforcement Academy.

Questions from the Committee

- 04:23:02 Sen. Buttrey asked Mr. Foster about the scope of work and education requirements.
- 04:23:58 Mr. Foster
- 04:26:47 Sen. Buttrey asked Mr. Stinar if there would be an increase in workload for dispatchers if the state were to implement a new endorsement for community veteran EMTs.
- 04:31:40 Mr. Stinar
- 04:32:32 Rep. Ricci said that HB612 originated from a small group of veterans who wanted to help veterans. He asked Mr. Foster if this small group is still operating and how veterans contact this group to seek help.
- 04:33:25 Mr. Foster
- 04:38:15 Sen. Buttrey asked if the committee decides to go forward with the study, what policy decisions would be needed.
- 04:39:40 Mr. Foster
- 04:41:48 Mr. Hagen

Public Comment on SJR 32

- 04:43:00 Juliana Hallows, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Veterans' Administration
(Exhibit 14)
- 04:48:14 Greg Dorrington, Montana Medical Association

Questions from the committee of Ms. Judy Bovington

- 04:50:40 Sen. Facey asked Ms. Bovington about the Department of Labor and Industry's perspective regarding licensing obstacles for EMTs.
- 04:53:44 Ms. Bovington
- 04:54:10 Sen. Vance asked about the department's position on the two bills, Senate Bill 104 and HB 612, which led to the SJR 32 study.
- 04:54:21 Ms. Bovington
- 04:56:59 Ms. Murdo referred the committee to public comment from Kimberly Burdick **(Exhibit 15)** and the call guidelines from Chouteau County Communications Center **(Exhibit 16)**.

Committee Discussion of Study Next Steps

- 04:59:14 Sen. Facey commented that moving forward with SJR 32 would not be successful.
- 04:59:20 Sen. Buttrey said that the SJR 32 study lists three things to look at. He is not convinced that putting people in potentially dangerous situations is the way to go.
- 05:01:14 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy agreed and said that coordination is important between the crisis intervention teams, public safety, and law enforcement.
- 05:03:42 Sen. Buttrey asked Mr. Threet if there could be any ongoing training for EMTs dealing with issues specific to veterans without any legislative interaction from the committee.
- 05:04:33 Mr. Threet
- 05:05:41 Juliana Hallows discussed the Veterans Affairs' free veteran-specific suicide

prevention training called SAVE.

05:06:34 The committee members discussed where to go with the SJR 32 study.

Discussion on agenda items for the February meeting

05:10:16 Sen. Vance discussed meeting dates for February. Ms. Murdo explained what was in the EAIC work plan.

05:13:29 Sen. Vance discussed the meat inspection issue and requested that topic be an agenda item for the next meeting.

05:13:51 Ms. Murdo asked if the committee would be interested in hearing about the concerns of meat inspectors at the federal level.

05:14:51 The members discussed the meat processors' treatment by the current meat inspectors, and that it would be a good idea to invite the federal inspector to discuss the requirements for the meat processors and the information pipeline to let meat processors know if there are any federal rule changes.

05:21:31 Ms. Murdo asked the committee members if they were still interested in the broadband issue.

ADJOURNMENT

05:22:48 With no further business before the committee, Sen. Vance adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

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