



Legislative Council

65th Montana Legislature

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SUSAN FOX, Executive Director
TODD EVERTS, Legal Division Director
FONG HOM, Secretary

June 8, 2017

To: Interim and Administrative Committee members and staff

From: Susan B. Fox

Re: Legislative Council Action on Interim Committee Assignments

The Legislative Council assigned the 20 interim studies to interim committees on June 6, 2017 (see table). The Council adopted the staff recommendation on 19 studies and changed the assignment of SJ32 to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee because of the licensing and economic development aspects of the study.

In addition, the Council made the following recommendations:

1. * An HJR 20 subcommittee should be established by the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee (CFHHS). It could include public members or stakeholders and legislators. The Council agreed to set aside some money from the emerging issues budget to cover subcommittee costs, if necessary. The Council directed Legislative Services and Fiscal Divisions to work together to coordinate additional staffing resources to accommodate the subcommittee's needs. The Economic Affairs Interim Committee, in addition to CFHHS, should appoint a member or members to the HJR 20 subcommittee. And given the sizable scope of the HJR 17 study of prescription drugs, the Committee should consider whether it has time to undertake the study.
2. The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee is encouraged to review Montana's Energy Policy with a focus on issues pertaining to costs and to promoting the exportation of Montana's energy resources. This may include discussions of Colstrip, large customer choice, and other energy resources.
3. The Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee is encouraged to closely monitor implementation of House Bill No. 473. The Council recommends actively looking at accountability for the gas tax revenue and the escalating transportation costs. These activities could be more robust than the audit and follow-up required in the legislation.
4. The Legislative Finance Committee is encouraged to review broadband pay.
5. The Legislative Audit Committee is encouraged to explore the overall audit structure in the executive and legislative branches by looking at other state governments and opportunities for streamlining.

**2017 Study Resolutions
Legislative Council Assignments
June 7, 2017**

Joint Res. #	Rank	Total Points	Short Title/Subject of Resolution	Staff Recommendation for Interim Committee Assignment
HJ 20	1	1212	Study transparency in health care pricing	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services (Subcommittee* with funding)
SJ 27	2	1176	Study Montana State Fund and options for Workers' Compensation	Economic Affairs
HJ 17	3	1074	Study prescription drug pricing	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services
HJ 1	4	915	Study funding for education programs for special needs	Education
HJ 22	5	891	Study agricultural property valuations	Revenue and Transportation
HJ 18	6	878	Study tax increment financing	Revenue and Transportation
SJ 5	7	865	Study threats to mining and burning of coal and consequences	Environmental Quality Council
SJ 21	8	855	Study emergency medical service and volunteer fire protection service	Local Government
HJ 6	9	841	Study methamphetamine and opioid abuse	Law and Justice
HJ 24	10	834	Study services for adults with developmental disabilities	Children, Families, Health and Human Services
SJ 23	11	765	Study property taxation of utility property	Revenue and Transportation
HJ 28	12	748	Study natural gas utility customer choice	Energy and Telecommunications
SJ 25	13	730	Study on the use of solitary confinement	Law and Justice
SJ 31	14	719	Study of utility decoupling	Energy and Telecommunications
SJ 20	15	700	Study factors affecting unemployment in high-poverty areas	Economic Affairs
SJ 2	16	665	Study of renewable energy credits	Energy and Telecommunications
HJ 25	17	648	Study of municipal fire protection	Local Government
SJ 9	18	636	Study potential impacts of chronic wasting disease and prevention	Environmental Quality Council
SJ 3	19	565	Study tribal resources for members involved in criminal justice system	State-Tribal Relations
SJ 32	20	546	Study emergency care provider training and scope of practice	Economic Affairs