

July 2018

Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee
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SJ 23: CENTRALLY ASSESSED BILL DRAFTS OVERVIEW

At the May meeting, the committee heard about a bill draft idea for the Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 study of the taxation of centrally assessed and utility property. That idea was to delay the lien date by 1 year for centrally assessed property to give the Department of Revenue and the taxpayer more time to share information regarding the value of the property. The committee requested staff work with the Department of Revenue and interested parties and provide a bill draft at the July meeting.

On June 18, 2018, committee staff met with the following entities to discuss the draft:

- Department of Revenue: Director Gene Walborn, Business and Income Taxes Division Administrator Lee Baerlocher, Business Tax and Valuation Bureau chief Kory Hofland;
- John Alke, Attorney, Northwestern Energy;
- Tim Burton, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns;
- Bridger Mahlum, Government Relations Director, Chamber of Commerce;
- Shantil Siaperas, Communications Director, Montana Association of Counties; and
- Bob Story, Executive Director, Montana Taxpayers Association.

Staff provided the attached bill draft, [LCcald](#), for review in advance of the discussion. The parties discussed the bill draft but did not agree on the language to be included in the bill. Specific concerns raised were how to deal with additions and deletions of property and the necessity of the language in Section 1(3) related to extraordinary and unusual events.

Because there was not time to meet again, those who attended were asked to provide bill draft ideas for the committee to consider. The Department of Revenue provided the attached draft, [LCca01](#), and John Alke of Northwestern Energy requested [LCca02](#).