



State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

65th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

SUE MALEK--Chair
DOUG KARY--Vice Chair
DEE BROWN
FRANK SMITH

HOUSE MEMBERS

DENISE HAYMAN
FORREST MANDEVILLE
WENDY MCKAMEY
KATHY SWANSON

COMMITTEE STAFF

SHERI SCURR, Lead Staff
K. VIRGINIA ALDRICH, Staff Attorney
JENNI CARR, Secretary

AGENDA

Revised on 09/12/2017

Meeting #2 -Thurs., Sept. 14, 2017
Room 102, Capitol Bldg., Helena*
Please note: all times are approximate

- 9:00 a.m. 1. **Sen. Sue Malek, Presiding Officer**
a. Call to Order, Roll Call
b. Welcome and agenda overview
- 9:05 2. **Veterans Affairs**
a. Informational briefings on transportation issues - VA and DAV roles
→ **Ms. Amanda Hopkins**, VA Veterans Transportation Service
→ **Ms. Terrie Casey**, VA Voluntary Services Chief
- 9:30 b. Overview of VA veteran suicide program - statistics and VA prevention efforts, **Ms. Juliana Hallows**, VA suicide prevention coordinator
- 10:00 c. State data on veteran suicides, **Ms. Laura Williamson**, state epidemiologist, DPHHS
- 10:15 d. State suicide prevention program, focus on veteran suicide prevention and implementation of HB 118 (2017), **Ms. Zoe Barnard**, administrator of Addictive and Mental Disorders Division, DPHHS
- 10:30 e. Overview of Montana National Guard suicide prevention program, **Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn** and selected staff, MTNG
- 11:00 f. Public comment on veterans issues
- 11:15 3. **Special purpose district elections**
a. Staff report on types of districts and elections, statutory framework, inconsistencies identified to date, **Ms. Sheri Scurr**, staff research analyst
b. Public comment on special purpose district election issues and options
c. Committee discussion and *potential action* on next steps
- 12 noon LUNCH BREAK
* The Sec. of State's staff has invited SAVA members and staff to informal lunch in the Sec. of State's conference room (optional)

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- 1:00 p.m. 4. **Election administration - mail and absentee ballot processing**
- a. Staff report on statutes concerning instructions to voters, handling of ballots, ballot rejection, and challenges or contests, **Ms. Sheri Scurr**, staff research analyst
- 1:15
- b. **Ms. Regina Plettenberg**, legislative chair, MT Clerks and Records and Election Administrators Association, and Ravalli County Election Administrator
 - Demonstration of how returned absentee and mail-in ballots are handled
 - Overview on training for election judges and handling of absentee and mail-in ballots
 - Intro. to AutoMark system for disabled voters, overview of amendments to HB 103 that did not pass and would have allowed "nonconforming ballots"
- 2:30
- c. **Secretary of State's letter**
Chief of Staff Christi Jacobson will read the letter in response to info. requested by Sen. Malek in her letter dated Aug. 3, 2017, concerning rejected ballots from May 2017 special election to fill vacancy in Montana's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives
- 2:45
- d. Public Comment
- 3:00
- BREAK
- 3:15
- e. **Secretary of State's conference room**
 - Demonstration of Montana Votes system, the statewide voter registration database
- Return to Room 102
- 3:45
5. **Rule review**
Overview of rule review activities, any questions from committee members, **Ms. Ginger Aldrich**, staff attorney
- 4:00
6. **Study and work plan**
- a. Overview of proposed study plan, **Ms. Sheri Scurr**
 - b. Public comment on study and work plan proposal
 - c. Committee work session
- Action Item: Review, revise, adopt study and work plan*

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- 4:30
7. **Review of next meeting (depending on study plan as adopted)**
 - Elections - aging voting systems, AutoMark and ADA issue identification
 - * *Possible tour of L&C county election administration of municipal election*
 - Pension plans - actuarial valuations and staff report on actuarial assumptions
 - Veterans benefit claims process, VA health care system (report on Miles City and VISN 19 steering committee)
 - Any followup on special district election statutes

Adjournment

* Special accommodations available: The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. If you require an accommodation, please contact Sheri Scurr at 406-444-3596 or sscurr@mt.gov at least 5 working days before the meeting date to discuss the nature of the accommodation you need.