



# SJ 24 Takeaways

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

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Prepared by Pat Murdo for the Economic Affairs Interim Committee



# I. There's a lot of money being distributed

- Department of Commerce gets the majority
- Regions/Convention & Visitor Bureaus (CVBs) get proportionate share
- Specific amounts for Virginia City area/Reeder's Alley
- Other departments also get ratio of the tax



# Purposes for Commerce distributions:

## \* Tourism Promotion

## \* Motion Picture Locations, etc.

- Should these purposes remain the same going forward?
- Is there duplication of effort? The MEDIA Act provides different incentives for motion pictures to be made in Montana.
- Would increased reporting be administratively complex or helpful in seeing that the intended purposes are being met?
- Are there sideboards to prevent:
  - Favoritism
  - Duplication of effort?



# Is the local use by Tourism Regions and Convention & Visitors Bureaus working?

- Are favorites rewarded?
- Are regions left behind? What about adding regions?
- Can grant reviewers be “blind” as to who is applying?



## II. What is the Future Looking Like?

- Increase in Accommodations Sales Tax by 1% this year (now is 4% - the same as the lodging facility use tax)
- Confusion between the two types of taxes
- More possible confusion after 2025 when Commerce and the Regions and the Convention and Visitors' Bureaus start to get funds from the Accommodations Sales Tax as well as the Lodging Facility Use Tax.



# What does the EAIC want to propose?

- **Specific information the committee wants for more study?**
- **The study plan called for a more in-depth briefing paper on local tourism commissions' recommendations related to distributions.**
- **Should legislation be introduced – see the options part of the briefing paper.**
- **If the committee wants an additional presentation, what is the topic, scope of interest?**