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LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE
67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Bryce Bennett
John Esp
Steve Fitzpatrick
Jen Gross
Keith Regier
Diane Sands

HOUSE MEMBERS

Robert Farris-Olsen
Frank Fleming
Kathy Kelker
Casey Knudsen
Jasmine Krotkov
Barry Usher

COMMITTEE STAFF

Julianne Burkhardt - Attorney
Veronica Sullivan- Secretary
Rachel Weiss - Research
Analyst

MINUTES LOG

March 30, 2020
9:03 AM
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Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation 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 recording 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 the 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>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to 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:

Rep. Barry Usher, Chair (R)
Sen. Jen Gross, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Bryce Bennett (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Frank Fleming (R)
Rep. Kathy Kelker (D)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)

Rep. Jasmine Krotkov (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Diane Sands (D)

STAFF PRESENT:

Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney
Laura Sherley, Secretary
Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC) UPDATE ON RESPONSE TO COVID-19 (BY PHONE)

09:06:27 Reginald Michael, Director of the Department of Corrections, started his presentation (**Exhibit 1**).

Committee Questions/ Committee Discussion

09:29:45 Sen. Gross asked about DOC support for county jails.
09:34:26 Connie Winner, Department of Corrections Administrator, Clinical Services, DOC.
09:35:16 Sen. Gross asked about additional funding for the department.
09:37:14 Rep. Kelker asked about the options for medical needs for people in prisons.
09:39:31 Ms. Winner.
09:41:28 Sen. Sands asked about regulations in the parole and pre-release centers.
09:45:56 Sen. Sands asked a follow up on compliance of the parole and pre-release boards.
09:49:07 Sen. Sands asked about the Shelby facility.
09:53:04 Rep. Krotkov asked Director Michael about the process and time of determining who can be released.
09:56:26 Rep. Krotkov asked Director Michael about what is needed for him to move the process along.
09:58:13 Rep Krotkov asked Director Michael about how long the calls and video chats are for the inmates.
09:58:48 Rep. Krotkov asked Director Michael about the sanitation supplies for the prisons.
10:00:42 Rep. Krotkov asked about solitary confinement and using it as a quarantine.
10:02:30 Rep. Krotkov asked about meal staggering in prisons and jails.
10:04:38 Rep. Kelker asked about the judicial system delays.
10:08:52 Rep. Kelker asked about parole officers and their role in helping with unemployment.
10:13:06 Rep. Kelker asked about the phone calls provided for families of the prisoners.

REVIEW OF WORK PLAN AND INTERIM STUDY STATUS -- LEGISLATIVE STAFF

10:15:55 Rachel Weiss, Legislative Research Analyst (**Exhibit 2**) (**Exhibit 3**).

Committee Questions/ Committee Discussion

- 10:23:39 Sen. Sands asked Ms. Weiss about realistic research access while working from home.
- 10:25:38 Sen. Sands asked about panels for meetings moving forward.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF INTERIM PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS

- 10:29:22 Rep. Kelker asked about final reports.
- 10:32:44 Rep. Krotkov asked about stake holder meetings.
- 10:33:12 Rep. Usher discussed future meetings and times that would work for everyone.
- 10:37:40 Sen. Sands discussed justice reinvestment and the reentry program.
- 10:40:32 Rep. Kelker further discussed the justice reinvestment and reentry programs.
- 10:43:47 Rep. Usher discussed committee plans for moving forward.
- 10:45:15 Rep. Kelker discussed bills that she would like to draft.
- 10:46:58 Sen. Sands discussed bill drafts.
- 10:49:12 Rep. Usher discussed Sen. Esp's suggestion on if the committee wanted to designate two half-days zoom meetings on different days.
- 10:50:17 Sen. Gross discussed the legislator claim form.
- 10:51:48 Sen. Sands discussed budget for future meetings.
- 10:54:23 Committee discussion on weekly meetings.
- 10:57:00 Ms. Weiss discussed meetings times and logistics of the meetings.
- 10:58:33 Rep. Farris-Olsen discussed price gouging.
- 11:00:06 Committee discussion on consumer affairs.
- 11:05:28 Rep. Kelker discussed HJ 36 study.

ADJOURNMENT

- 11:09:33 With no further business before the committee, Representative Usher adjourned the meeting at 11:09 am.

Additional handouts:

Public Comment

Public Comment Guidelines

Work Plan

HJ 36 Comments

HJ 43 Comments

SJ 19 Comments

Montana Supreme Court Directives