

# HB 39 STUDY: JUDICIAL PILOT PROJECTS WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

House Bill 39 required the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee to create a working group of at least 10 people if Committee members believed the results of two judicial pilot projects for child abuse and neglect cases held promise. The Committee approved creation of the working group on Sept. 22, 2021.

HB 39 specified the makeup of the committee to ensure representation of the various parties involved in child abuse and neglect proceedings and to include at least two members from rural areas of the state. Rep. Ed Stafman, presiding officer of the Children and Families Committee, appointed the following members based on nominations from agencies or associations involved with the groups required by HB 39 to be represented on the group.

| Member                                       | Entity Represented   | City/Town  | Rural |
|--|--|------------|-------|
| Rep. Dennis Lenz, Presiding Officer          | Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee | Billings   |       |
| Rep. Danny Tenenbaum, Vice Presiding Officer | Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee | Missoula   |       |
| Jessica Fehr                                 | District Judge   | Billings   |       |
| Kelsie Harwood                               | County Attorneys   | Chinook    | x     |
| Eric Barnosky                                | Department of Public Health and Human Services                   | Miles City | x     |
| Brian Smith                                  | Office of State Public Defender                                  | Helena     |       |
| Tom Billteen                                 | Court Improvement Program  | Helena     |       |
| Kiersta Sullivan                             | Court-Appointed Special Advocates                                | Conrad     | x     |
| Matt Furlong                                 | Public Member  | Helena     |       |
| Eldena Bear Don't Walk                       | ICWA Experience  | Billings   |       |