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STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERAN AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Cuffe
Janet Ellis
Douglas (Doug) Kary
Edith (Edie) McClafferty

HOUSE MEMBERS

Marta Bertoglio
Julie Dooling
Jessica Karjala
Kelly Kortum
Wendy McKamey
Marvin Weatherwax

COMMITTEE STAFF

K.V. Aldrich - Attorney
Bri Nordhagen – Secretary
Rebecca Power – Research Analyst

MINUTES LOG

December 16, 2021

Room 137

Helena, Montana

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.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Janet Ellis, Chair
Rep. Marta Bertoglio, Vice Chair
Sen. Mike Cuffe
Rep. Julie Dooling
Rep. Jessica Karjala
Sen. Doug Kary
Rep. Kelly Kortum
Rep. Wendy McKamey

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

K.V. Aldrich, Attorney
Rebecca Power, Research
Analyst
Bri Nordhagen, Secretary

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

VISITORS' LIST [\(Attachment 2\)](#)

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

08:33:06 Sen. Janet Ellis called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

HJ 8: Interim Study of Montana's Public Pension Systems

08:34:11 Rebecca Power, Legislative Services Division (LSD), began her review of the "Game Wardens Overview" handout. [\(Exhibit 1\)](#)
08:36:21 Dore Schwinden, MPERA Executive Director, and William Holahan Deputy Director, presented the "Overview of Game Wardens' and Peace Officers' Retirement System..." handout. [\(Exhibit 2\)](#)

Questions from the committee

08:53:40 Sen. Kary asked Mr. Holahan asked if those inactive in the plan had been paid out, were they suspended and what does the plan owe them. Sen. Kary asked if that influenced amortization because those numbers would be rolled in. Sen. Kary asked Mr. Holahan if any pension funds give the employee a certain amount of years to be paid out when inactive, and if so, would that help this plan.
08:56:27 Rep. Garner asked Mr. Holahan if there were standards used or more of an eyeball test for determining when to do an experience study and/or adopt. Rep. Garner asked Mr. Holahan how they determine when to adopt and when not to adopt, how do they determine what that period is, and is there any value in adopting a schedule for that.
09:00:11 Chair Ellis asked Mr. Holahan if the last time the employer contribution was raised was 1997.

HJ 8: Interim Study of Montana's Public Pension Systems

09:01:04 Ms. Power began her overview of the "FY Green Sheets" and "Pension Acronyms" handouts. [\(Exhibit 3\)](#) [\(Exhibit 4\)](#)

Public comment

09:04:52 Sara Piper, MFPE

Discussion from the committee

09:06:46 Chair Ellis reviewed the "Public Pension Design Options for Future Montana Employees" and the "Does the Montana PERS Defined Contribution Retirement Plan Meet Design Gold Standards" handouts. [\(Exhibit 5\)](#) [\(Exhibit 6\)](#)

RECESS

09:09:11 Recess until 9:30

Transition from MT Votes to electMT

09:29:47 Christi Jacobson, Secretary of State, reviewed the "Montana SOS" handout. [\(Exhibit 7\)](#)
09:33:42 Stewart Fuller, Election and Voter Services Manager, presented.
09:36:25 Rep. Weatherwax has joined the meeting.

Questions from the committee

09:40:34 Sen. Kary asked Mr. Fuller if security patches were still available for the existing Vote MT.
09:41:44 Rep. Karjala asked Mr. Fuller what had occurred between the last meeting and this one, in terms of the system not being used if it's not ready by the 20th. Rep. Karjala asked Mr. Fuller what will be done with the two different software programs moving forward.
09:44:38 Rep. Kortum asked Mr. Fuller if there was a roadmap for the upcoming school board primary elections to do a parallel test.
09:46:06 Sen. Cuffe asked Mr. Fuller when they first started on this program, when the decision date was and if he was correct in that description. Sen. Cuffe asked Mr. Fuller if they had a backup plan all along, should the system not be ready to go live come the decision date.
09:50:14 Rep. Karjala asked Mr. Fuller if the amount of funding would suffice should they have to work on the software, how far would the grant money go, and could the committee see a copy of the contract.

Transition from MT Votes to elect MT (continued)

10:02:21 Rina Fontana Moore, Cascade County Election Administrator, presented.
10:04:26 Regina Plettenburg, Clerk and Recorder of Ravalli County, presented.

Questions from the committee

10:06:18 Rep. Kortum asked Mr. Fuller if the funding for the MT elect system was valid through 2022 and if there were some sprints that weren't passed could that be a preview for the upcoming meeting on the 20th.

Public comment

10:10:02 Robert Filipovich, Helena Resident

10:19:25 Nancy Leifer, League of Women Voters of Montana
10:21:33 Rebecca Johnson, Clancy Resident
10:23:03 Mary Catherine Dunhy, Miles City resident
10:28:07 Sharon Patton-Griffin, Great Falls Resident

Discussion and questions from the committee

10:32:07 Sen. Ellis mentioned the "State-by-State" handout. [\(Exhibit 8\)](#)
10:39:58 Chair Ellis asked the SOS's office what the cost to the state was in developing this program.

RECESS

10:42:42 Recess until 11:30

Rule Review

11:22:56 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Attorney (LSD), began her overview of the "State Lottery and Sports Wagering Commission" rule review handout. [\(Exhibit 9\)](#)
11:33:40 Director Scott Sales, Montana Lottery Director, presented.
11:38:32 Don Harris, Chief Legal Counsel, presented.

Public comment

11:39:59 John Iverson, Montana Taverns Association

Questions and discussion from the committee

11:42:14 Rep. Karjala asked Mr. Iverson about competitive pricing and what that would be, would it continue to be a commission, and if so, what would the differences be between. Rep. Karjala asked why people are choosing not to participate, who they are the and percentage of those people.
11:45:58 Chair Ellis asked Ms. Aldrich if there was a way to do a compromise.
11:53:38 Vice Chair Bertoglio asked Director Sales if he intended to bring a bill forward next session to clear up confusion.
11:54:49 Rep. McKamey asked Ms. Aldrich what the committee can do to help facilitate the lottery.
11:58:00 The committee discussed the lottery rule review.

Motion

11:59:04 Sen. Cuffe made a motion the committee allow the lottery to make this change.

Questions from the committee

12:00:37 Rep. McKamey asked Ms. Aldrich if the committee accepted this rule review change what would happen moving forward.
12:01:56 Question called.

Vote

12:02:54 The motion to accept the rule review change passed 5-4 on a roll call vote, with Rep. McClafferty excused.

Rule Review (continued)

12:03:20 Ms. Aldrich continued her overview of the “Registration of Employers of Paid Signature Gatherer’s” and the “Maintenance of Active and Inactive Voter Registration Lists for Elections” rule review handouts. [\(Exhibit 10\)](#) [\(Exhibit 11\)](#)

Public Comment* on Any Topic under the Committee's Jurisdiction

12:12:14 None

Meeting Wrap Up

12:09:21 Ms. Power and the committee discussed next meeting discussion topics.

ADJOURNMENT

12:12:14 Chair Ellis adjourned the State Administration & Veterans’ Affairs Interim Committee meeting at 12:03 P.M.