



COURT SYSTEM DEPENDENCY NEGLECT TASK FORCE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Ellie Boldman
Dennis Lenz

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jennifer Carlson
SJ Howell

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Judge Rienne McElyea
Jessica Finley
Jon Kadner,
Rachel Green
Wamnee Ereaux
Jennifer Owen
Kelly Driscoll
Nikki Grossberg

COMMITTEE STAFF

Griffin Burns - Research Analyst
Maddelyn Black - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

July 19, 2024
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. Dennis Lenz, Presiding Officer
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Presiding Officer
Rep. Jennifer Carlson
Rep. SJ Howell
Judge Rienne McElyea, District Court Judge
Jessica Finley, Missoula County Attorney's Office
Jon Kadner, Cascade County Sheriff's Office
Rachel Green, Governor's Office
Wamnee Ereaux
Jennifer Owen
Kelly Driscoll- Office of the State Public Defender
Nikki Grossberg, Department of Public Health and Human Services

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Griffin Burns, Research Analyst
Maddelyn Black, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:31:23 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

DISTRICT COURT EXPENDITURES AND Q & A

09:34:46 Beth McLaughlin, Supreme Court Administrator

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

09:37:27 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

09:38:17 Beth McLaughlin

Task force Questions and Discussion

09:41:09 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

09:41:18 Nikki Grossberg

09:41:40 Beth McLaughlin

09:44:37 Griffin Burns

09:44:45 Beth McLaughlin

09:56:30 Rep. SJ Howell

09:57:40 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

Public Comment on District Court Expenditures and Q & A

09:57:48 None

Task force Questions and Discussion Continued

09:58:09 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

09:58:33 Beth McLaughlin

10:02:59 Judge Rienne McElyea

10:03:28 Beth McLaughlin

10:06:21 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

10:09:54 Kelly Driscoll

10:10:21 Beth McLaughlin

10:11:55 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

10:12:10 Beth McLaughlin

10:13:20 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

10:14:08 Beth McLaughlin

10:18:11 Kelly Driscoll

10:18:53 Beth McLaughlin
10:20:30 Sen. Ellie Boldman
10:21:09 Beth McLaughlin

10:25:35 **Recessed**
10:32:28 **Reconvened**

PANEL DISCUSSION, DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

10:33:07 Judge Rienne McElyea
10:35:51 Judge John Kutzman
10:36:38 Judge Kaydee Snipes Ruiz
10:38:56 Judge Rodney Souza
10:43:49 Judge Leslie Halligan
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
10:48:48 Judge Luke Berger

Task Force Questions and Discussion

10:49:32 Judge Rienne McElyea
10:54:35 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
10:57:43 Judge Leslie Halligan
11:02:00 Judge Luke Berger
11:03:52 Judge John Kutzman
11:07:15 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
11:08:11 Judge Kaydee Snipes Ruiz
11:10:57 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
11:11:30 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
11:13:56 Judge Rienne McElyea
11:16:51 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
11:17:04 Judge Rodney Souza
11:22:36 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
11:24:21 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
11:25:42 Judge Leslie Halligan
11:30:35 Judge Rodney Souza
11:33:20 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
11:33:59 Judge Luke Berger
11:35:28 Judge Kaydee Snipes Ruiz
11:37:50 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
11:40:10 Judge Rodney Souza
11:44:09 Judge John Kutzman
11:46:02 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
11:48:17 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

11:51:28 Kelly Driscoll
11:53:20 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
11:53:28 Judge Rienne McElyea
11:54:56 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
11:56:02 Judge Kaydee Snipes Ruiz
11:57:01 Judge Leslie Halligan

Public Comment on Panel Discussion, District Court Judges

12:00:37 None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE TASK FORCE NOT ON THIS AGENDA

12:00:42 None

Directions to Staff

12:01:20 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:01:32 Griffin Burns
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

12:02:01 **Recessed**

12:11:11 **Reconvened**

WORK SESSION

12:11:07 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:14:21 Judge Rienne McElyea
12:16:32 Kelly Driscoll
12:17:25 Rep. SJ Howell
12:18:14 Kelly Driscoll
12:19:43 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:20:15 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
12:20:45 Kelly Driscoll
12:21:40 Jessica Finley
12:25:27 Griffin Burns
12:25:42 Kelly Driscoll
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
12:27:06 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:27:53 Nikki Grossberg
12:29:12 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:30:22 Kelly Driscoll
12:30:31 Nikki Grossberg
12:31:02 Rep. SJ Howell
12:31:33 Kelly Driscoll

12:33:56 Jessica Finley
12:36:37 Jennifer Owen
12:37:20 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:37:51 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
12:39:17 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:39:37 Nikki Grossberg
12:40:37 Kelly Driscoll
12:42:13 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
12:45:48 Wamnee Ereaux
12:46:35 Jessica Finley
12:47:45 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
12:50:08 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
12:52:42 Kelly Driscoll
12:56:15 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
12:58:12 Rep. SJ Howell
12:58:54 Jennifer Owen
13:02:45 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:04:20 Kelly Driscoll
13:05:20 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
13:06:00 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:08:00 Griffin Burns
13:08:51 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:09:46 Judge Rienne McElyea
13:14:20 Kelly Driscoll
13:15:35 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:15:54 Judge Rienne McElyea
13:17:41 Jessica Finley
13:19:00 Jessica Owen
13:19:20 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:21:09 Judge Rienne McElyea
13:21:33 Kelly Driscoll
13:22:28 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
13:23:26 Kelly Driscoll
13:25:08 Judge Rienne McElyea
13:25:45 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
13:27:40 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz
13:29:23 Vice Presiding Officer Ellie Boldman
13:30:20 Griffin Burns

Motion

13:31:24 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz moved forward a bill draft on 5 business days for prehearing conferences to align with emergency protective services.

13:31:30 **Vote:** Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

13:31:40 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz moved forward a bill draft on show cause hearings on changing 20 days to 21, that is the only change.

13:31:58 **Vote:** Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Directions to Staff

13:32:28 Griffin Burns

13:33:05 Presiding Officer Dennis Lenz

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 13:33:42