



## **ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

### **68th Montana Legislature**

#### **SENATE MEMBERS**

Kenneth Bogner  
Steve Fitzpatrick  
Shane Morigeau  
Mark Noland

#### **HOUSE MEMBERS**

Jonathan Karlen  
Joshua Kassmier  
Brandon Ler  
Jennifer Lynch  
Ron Marshall  
Nelly Nicol

#### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary  
Megan Moore- Research Analyst  
Jameson Walker - Attorney

# **MINUTES LOG**

June 17, 2024

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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:**

Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Presiding Officer (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Presiding Officer (D)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)  
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)  
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary  
Megan Moore, Research Analyst  
Jameson Walker, Attorney

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

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

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- 10:04:04 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. The committee secretary took roll.
- 10:04:55 Rep. Jonathan Karlen left the meeting.

**COMMITTEE LEGISLATION & DRAFT FINAL REPORTS REVIEW**

- 10:05:07 Megan Moore, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT1](#)
- 10:06:34 Jameson Walker, Legislative Attorney, LSD

**PD0032: PROFESSIONAL LICENSING CODE CLEANUP DRAFT LEGISLATION**

- 10:07:04 Jameson Walker  
[EXHIBIT2](#)

**Public Comment**

- 10:09:17 Debby Stallcamp

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

None

**PD0031: AMBULANCE PROVIDER ASSESSMENT DRAFT LEGISLATION**

- 10:10:32 Jameson Walker  
[EXHIBIT3](#)

**Public Comment**

- 10:11:58 Justin Grohs, Manager, Great Falls Emergency Services
- 10:14:53 Mary Lemieux, Administrator, Health Resources Division, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

- 10:15:47 Sen. Mark Noland
- 10:16:35 Mary Lemieux, DPHHS

**DRAFT FINAL REPORT: SJ30 STUDY ON VITICULTURE**

- 10:19:39 Megan Moore  
[EXHIBIT4](#)

**Public Comment**

None

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

10:21:28 Rep. Brandon Ler  
10:21:45 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

**DRAFT STUDY SUMMARY: CHILDCARE & THE WORKFORCE**

10:22:07 Megan Moore  
[EXHIBIT5](#)

**Public Comment**

None

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

None

**MEMO: CHILDCARE REINSURANCE POOL LEGISLATION OPTIONS**

10:24:04 Jameson Walker  
[EXHIBIT6](#)  
10:32:38 Rep. Jonathan Karlen joined the meeting.

**Public Comment**

10:35:32 Caitlin Jensen, Executive Director, Zero to Five Montana

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

10:40:13 Sen. Mark Noland  
10:45:15 Rep. Ron Marshall  
10:47:02 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau  
10:50:05 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
10:51:33 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

**Motion**

10:54:15 Rep. Jonathan Karlen moved to draft language for a Best Beginnings program with adjusted income thresholds and funding options.

**Discussion on the Motion**

10:55:46 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
10:56:09 Presiding Officer Kassmier  
10:56:23 Megan Moore  
10:56:50 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
10:57:42 Rep. Ron Marshall  
10:58:26 Sen. Kenneth Bogner  
10:59:15 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
11:00:42 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
11:01:38 **Vote:** Failed 3 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Jonathan Karlen, Rep. Jennifer Lynch, Sen. Shane Morigeau voting yes. Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick voted by Proxy.

**Committee Discussion**

11:02:20 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

**Motion**

11:03:25 Presiding Officer Jousua Kassmier asked if anyone was interested in pursuing draft legislation for the childcare study. All members voted no by voice vote. Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick voted by proxy.

**PD0035: MARIJUANA DRAFT 1 – RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF FEDERAL SAFER BANKING ACT**

11:04:05 Megan Moore

[EXHIBIT7](#)

**Public Comment**

11:04:59 Jen D’Avella, Lionheart Cannabis  
11:06:32 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostic Laboratory  
11:08:18 Jessie Luther, Montana Credit Unions  
11:09:36 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association  
11:10:22 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild (MCG)  
11:12:20 Mariah Bond, Soutlonix LLC  
11:13:36 Adam Arnold

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

11:15:45 Sen. Mark Noland  
11:17:21 Pepper Petersen, MCG  
11:17:30 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.  
11:18:24 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting in person  
11:19:21 Sen. Mark Noland  
11:19:32 Kate Cholewa  
11:21:29 Presiding Officer Jonathan Kassmier  
11:21:55 Megan Moore

**PD0036: MARIJUANA DRAFT 2 – MARIJUANA CLEANUP COMMITTEE BILL**

11:22:25 Megan Moore

[EXHIBIT8](#)

11:26:36 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

**Public Comment**

11:26:49 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association  
11:28:50 Pepper Petersen, CEO, Montana Cannabis Guild (MCG)  
11:35:50 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostic Laboratory  
11:39:11 Jenny Horten, Magic City Relief

11:48:19 Jen D'Avella, Lionheart Cannabis

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

11:51:48 Rep. Ron Marshall  
11:52:45 Pepper Petersen, MCG  
11:53:28 Rep. Ron Marshall  
11:53:45 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
11:54:23 Rep. Ron Marshall  
11:54:49 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
11:55:06 Jennifer Hensley  
11:56:46 Rep. Ron Marshall  
11:57:27 Jennifer Hensley

**PD0033: Marijuana Draft 3 – Moratorium Committee Bill**

11:58:27 Jameson Walker

[EXHIBIT9](#)

12:03:00 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

**Public Comment**

12:04:07 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association  
12:09:25 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild  
12:13:23 Adam Arnold  
12:18:36 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau left the meeting.  
12:19:26 Jen D'Avella, Lionheart Cannabis  
12:21:24 Sahil Mehta, Soultonix LLC  
12:22:15 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
12:22:16 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry

12:23:37 **Recessed**

13:33:20 **Reconvened**

**COMMITTEE EDUCATION: STATE-BASED SYSTEM OF INSURANCE REGULATION  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF INSURANCE LEGISLATORS (NCOIL)**

13:33:41 Tom Considine, Commissioner, NCOIL  
13:41:03 Will Melofchik, NCOIL

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

14:04:24 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
14:04:42 Tom Considine  
14:11:48 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

**Public Comment**

None

**AGENCY LEGISLATION PROPOSALS: STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

14:12:40 Jameson Walker

[EXHIBIT10](#)

14:15:10 Frank Cote, State Auditor's Office

[EXHIBIT11](#)

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

14:25:23 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

14:25:33 Frank Cote

**Public Comment**

None

**Discussion**

14:26:22 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

14:26:31 Jameson Walker

**Motion**

14:27:00 Sen. Fitzpatrick moved to request State Auditors proposed bills be drafted. Vote carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Kenneth Bogner was absent for the vote.

14:27:48 **Recessed**

14:42:43 **Reconvened - all members returned to the meeting.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW**

14:42:55 Jameson Walker

[EXHIBIT12](#)

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

14:48:20 Sen. Mark Noland

14:48:35 Jameson Walker

**Public Comment**

14:49:42 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Distillers Guild

14:52:55 Quinlan O'Conner, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry

14:53:14 Jeannie Gardner, Board of Dentistry Liaison, Montana Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA)

14:53:47 Matt Leow, Executive Director, Montana Brewers Association

14:59:46 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

15:01:32 Rep. Ron Marshall

15:02:03 Jameson Walker  
15:02:30 Sen. Mark Noland  
15:03:01 Jennifer Hensley  
15:03:34 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
15:04:02 Jameson Walker  
15:05:48 Sen. Mark Noland  
15:06:41 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
15:06:41 Jameson Walker

**Motion**

15:08:10 Sen. Noland moved to informally object to the proposed Rule Package 42-1076

**Discussion on the motion**

15:08:52 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
15:09:57 Jameson Walker  
15:11:49 **Vote:** Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

15:12:03 Jameson Walker  
15:12:46 Rep. Brandon Ler

**BOARD OF DENTISTRY OBJECTION REVIEW- 24-138-84**

15:13:03 Jameson Walker  
15:18:33 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

**Public Comment on the Rule Objection**

15:18:51 Jeanie Gardner, MDHA  
15:19:09 Brad Longcake, MDHA  
15:19:49 Mark Brown, Montana Dental Association  
15:20:47 Quinlan O'Conner, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry  
15:21:42 Diane Klemann, Dental Hygienist

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

15:22:32 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
15:23:06 Quinlan O'Conner  
15:30:40 Sen. Mark Noland  
15:31:01 Mark Brown  
15:32:43 Jameson Walker  
15:34:02 Sen. Mark Noland  
15:35:31 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
15:36:33 Sen. Mark Noland

15:37:10 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
15:38:08 Sen. Mark Noland  
15:39:05 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
15:40:00 Jameson Walker  
15:41:11 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

**Motion**

15:41:16 Rep Karlen moved to withdraw the committee's formal objection to the proposed rule 24-138-84  
15:42:22 **Vote:** Failed 3 - 7 by voice vote with Rep. Jonathan Karlen, Rep. Jennifer Lynch, Sen. Shane Morigeau voting yes.

15:43:34 **Recessed**  
16:02:23 **Reconvened**

**Additional Public Comment**

None

**Committee Work Session**

16:02:57 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

**Motion**

16:03:22 Sen. Fitzpatrick Moved to pass the code clean up draft language and pre-introduce the bill and assign a carrier.  
16:03:39 **Vote:** Carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Shane Morigeau was absent for the vote.  
16:04:50 Jameson Walker  
16:05:27 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.

**Discussion**

16:05:26 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
16:05:41 Megan Moore  
16:06:03 Rep. Brandon Ler  
16:06:23 Megan Moore  
16:06:33 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

**Motion**

16:06:35 Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved to adopt the SJ 30 Study on Viticulture draft final report  
16:06:44 **Vote:** Carried unanimously by voice vote.



16:06:48 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

16:07:03 Megan Moore

### **Motion**

16:07:24 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick Moved to adopt the childcare and the workforce draft study summary

16:07:28 **Vote:** Carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **Discussion**

16:07:36 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

16:07:51 Rep. Brandon Ler

16:08:03 Presiding Officer Kassmier

16:08:12 Sen. Mark Noland

16:09:22 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

16:09:57 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

16:10:24 Pepper Petersen

16:12:57 Kristen Barber, Administrator, Cannabis Control Division

16:13:46 Kate Cholewa

16:14:10 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau

16:14:48 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

16:14:54 Megan Moore

16:15:40 Rep. Ron Marshall

16:15:46 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau

16:16:16 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

16:16:36 Jameson Walker

16:16:59 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

16:17:23 Jameson Walker

16:17:52 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

16:18:10 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

16:19:40 Jameson Walker

16:20:35 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

16:21:00 Jameson Walker

16:21:55 Rep. Ron Marshall

16:22:45 Jameson Walker

16:23:34 Sen. Mark Noland

16:25:51 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau

16:29:15 Jameson Walker

16:30:49 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

16:31:38 Jameson Walker

16:32:06 Rep. Ron Marshall  
16:32:36 Kristen Barber  
16:32:53 Sen. Kenneth Bogner  
16:33:21 Kristen Barber  
16:33:55 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
16:34:05 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
16:34:40 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
16:35:22 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
16:35:49 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
16:36:12 Rep. Brandon Ler  
16:36:32 Jameson Walker  
16:36:47 Rep. Brandon Ler

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

16:38:31 Kate Cholewa  
16:39:20 Pepper Petersen

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:42:23