



## **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**

LJ Jennings - Secretary  
Erin Sullivan - Research Analyst  
Jameson Walker - Attorney

# **MINUTES LOG**

July 11, 2023  
Capital Room 137 and Zoom  
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, Chair (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)  
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Rep. Ron Marshall (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

LJ Jennings, Secretary  
Erin Sullivan, Research Analyst  
Jameson Walker, Attorney

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

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

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

08:32:13 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R) called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

08:33:21 Sen. Noland has arrived

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

08:33:21 Committee Introductions

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW**

08:36:26 Erin Sullivan, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division, (LSD)

### **RULES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

08:39:45 Erin Sullivan, LSD

[EXHIBIT1](#)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW**

08:50:33 Jameson Walker, Staff Attorney, LSD

[EXHIBIT2](#)

[EXHIBIT3](#)

08:58:32 Rep. Marshall has arrived

### **Public Comment on Rules**

09:09:25 Quinlan O'Conner, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry, (DLI)

09:10:19 Jean Branscum, CEO Montana Medical Association, (MMA)

[EXHIBIT4](#)

09:13:45 Rep. Ler has left

09:17:31 Sen. Noland

09:18:23 Sen. Fitzpatrick

09:19:03 Rep. Ler has arrived

09:19:34 Sen. Fitzpatrick

09:20:36 Ingrid Lovitt, Montana Association of Naturopathic Physicians, (MANP)

09:25:36 Amanda Osborne, Montana Midwifery Association, (MMA)

09:27:36 Frank Cote, Office of State Auditor, (SAO)

09:27:53 Rep. Karlen

09:31:03 Sen. Fitzpatrick

### **COMMITTEE RULES AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### **Motion**

09:33:16 Sen. Fitzpatrick moved committee rules be adopted

**Motion**

09:34:18 Sen. Fitzpatrick moved to have the Committee Rules be amended.

**Vote:**

09:34:19 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion**

09:34:18 Sen. Fitzpatrick moved to adopt the committee rules as amended.

**Vote:**

09:34:19 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion**

11:13:02 Rep. Ler moved for Rep Kassmier to be the Presiding Officer.

**Vote:**

11:13:03 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion**

09:35:02 Rep. Karlen moved for Sen. Morigeau for Vice Presiding Officer.

**Vote:**

09:35:03 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**LIAISONS TO MONTANA STATE FUND**

09:36:46 Sen. Fitzpatrick

09:36:47 Erin Sullivan

09:38:51 Rep. Karlen

09:38:59 Rep. Ler

09:39:09 Rep. Nicol

**Appointment of Liaisons to Montana State Fund**

09:39:35 Presiding Officer Kassmier appointed Rep. Karlen and Rep. Ler.

**WELCOME TO EAIC**

09:40:13 Erin Sullivan

**EXHIBIT5**

**EXHIBIT6**

09:45:35 Presiding Officer Kassmier has left

09:49:13 Rep. Nicol has left

09:55:47 Presiding Officer Kassmier has arrived

09:55:55 Rep. Nicol has arrived

### **Draft Work Plan and Meeting Schedule**

09:57:02 Erin Sullivan

### **Assigned Study – Senate Joint 30**

10:08:14 Erin Sullivan

10:09:47 Presiding Officer Kassmier has left

### **Work Plan and Decision Matrix Discussion**

10:11:59 Erin Sullivan

[\*\*EXHIBIT7\*\*](#)

10:13:11 Presiding Officer Kassmier has arrived

10:15:30 Sen. Bogner

### **AGENCY INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **Department of Commerce, (DOC)**

10:17:16 Mandy Rambo, DOC

[\*\*EXHIBIT8\*\*](#)

10:18:01 Scott Osterman, DOC

10:31:56 Sen. Noland

#### **Governor's Office of Economic Development, (GOED)**

10:33:27 Mark Blasdel, Director, GOED

[\*\*EXHIBIT9\*\*](#)

10:39:06 Sen. Noland

10:39:33 Rep. Karlen

10:39:56 Erin Sullivan clarified handouts in binders

### **RECESS**

11:02:16 Reconvened

#### **Department of Labor and Industry, (DLI)**

11:02:18 Erin Weisgerber, Administrator, DLI

[\*\*EXHIBIT10\*\*](#)

11:05:34 Eric Strauss, Administrator, DLI

[\*\*EXHIBIT10A\*\*](#)

11:09:15 Quinlan O'Connor

#### **Department of Livestock, (DOL)**

11:12:20 Mikey Honeycutt, Administrator, DOL

[\*\*EXHIBIT11\*\*](#)

11:20:00 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

11:20:13 Sen. Bogner has left

11:20:24 Sen. Noland has left

11:21:58 Rep. Ler

#### **Division of Banking and Financial Institutions**

11:22:42 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration, (DOA)

[\*\*EXHIBIT12\*\*](#)

[\*\*EXHIBIT13\*\*](#)

### **State Auditor's Office (SAO)**

11:25:34 Frank Cote, Government Affairs Liaison, SAO

[EXHIBIT14](#)

[EXHIBIT15](#)

[EXHIBIT16](#)

### **Recess**

13:00:58 Reconvened

### **Department of Agriculture, (DA)**

13:01:48 Christy Clark, Director, DA

[EXHIBIT17](#)

[EXHIBIT18](#)

[EXHIBIT19](#)

13:02:54 Rep. Nicol has arrived

13:08:11 Sen. Noland

### **Cannabis Control Division**

13:10:57 Brandon Beatty, Director, Department of Revenue, (DOR)

[EXHIBIT20](#)

13:13:39 Kristan Barbour, Administrator, DOR

[EXHIBIT21](#)

13:19:56 Sen. Noland

### **Alcohol Beverage Control Division, (ABCD)**

13:24:28 Steve Swanson, Division Operating Officer, ABCD

13:24:29 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, ABCD

[EXHIBIT22](#)

[EXHIBIT23](#)

13:31:33 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

13:33:17 Sen. Noland

### **Montana State Fund, (MSF)**

13:37:42 Holly O'Dell, CEO, MSF

[EXHIBIT24](#)

[EXHIBIT25](#)

[EXHIBIT26](#)

13:50:06 Rep. Nicol

13:52:41 Rene Martello, Director of Finance and Actuary, MSF

13:58:37 Sen. Noland

### **Public Comment on Agencies and Topics**

14:02:18 Larry Roberston, Montana Wine Association, (MWA)

14:04:19 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Association, (MTCA)

14:15:24 Steve Cape, Coalition for Safety and Justice

## **Recesss**

14:45:15      Reconvened

## **EAIC'S WORK PLAN OPTIONS AND STUDY PRIORITIES**

### **Motion**

14:45:37      Rep. Karlen moved for an informal objection to Proposed Rule 24.111.28

### **Discussion on the Motion**

14:46:12      Jameson Walker

14:47:52      Sen. Noland

14:48:55      Jameson Walker

14:49:34      Rep. Karlen

14:50:20      Sen. Fitzpatrick

### **Motion**

14:51:15      Rep. Karlen moved for an Informal objection of Rule 24.111.28

### **Vote:**

15:51:59      Tied 5 - 5 roll call vote

## **MEMBER TOPICS DISCUSSION**

14:58:00      Rep. Ler asked about timing.

14:59:36      Sen. Noland

15:01:31      Sen. Fitzpatrick added biometric privacy to topics

15:02:11      Rep. Karlen commented on housing and House Bill 819

15:03:15      Chair Kassmier added Senate Bill 351 to topics

15:03:33      Sen. Fitzpatrick

15:03:56      Rep Nicol asked about state fund review

15:05:22      Sen. Morigeau added childcare work force to topics

15:06:03      Rep. Lynch

15:06:26      Sen. Bogner

15:09:43      Rep. Ler removed alcohol three tier off topics

15:10:14      Sen. Morigeau

15:10:31      Chair Kassmier

15:10:47      Rep. Ler added benefits cliff to topics

15:12:38      Erin Sullivan went over work plan agency items

15:12:54      Presiding Officer Kassmier

15:13:58      Erin Sullivan

15:15:23      Rep. Karlen asked about workforce topic and microbusiness

15:16:40      Rep. Ler asked about meeting time setup

15:18:34      Erin Sullivan discussed statutory duties

15:20:18      Presiding Officer Kassmier selected option B for duties

15:20:46      Erin Sullivan discussed agency reporting

15:21:55 Presiding Officer Kassmier selected option B for agency reporting (see exhibit 7)  
 15:22:47 Erin Sullivan discussed board issues  
 15:23:43 Sen. Noland  
 15:24:02 Jameson Walker  
 15:26:06 Presiding Officer Kassmier selected option A for board issues (see exhibit 7)  
 15:26:23 Erin Sullivan discussed agency bills  
 15:26:47 Rep. Nicol  
 15:28:51 Sen. Fitzpatrick selected option B (see exhibit 7)  
 15:29:13 Presiding Officer Kassmier selected option B for agency bills (see exhibit 7)  
 15:29:51 Erin Sullivan  
 15:30:28 Presiding Officer Kassmier selected option A for agency reporting (see exhibit 7)  
 15:30:49 Erin discussed House Bill 142 review  
 15:32:50 Presiding Officer Kassmier selected option D for further agency studies House Bill 142 (see exhibit 7)  
 15:33:37 Erin Sullivan discussed Senate Joint 30 study time  
 15:35:27 Sen. Noland  
 15:36:11 Erin Sullivan  
 15:37:13 Sen. Bogner suggested option A for Senate Joint 30 (see exhibit 7)  
 15:38:10 Presiding Officer Kassmier selected option A for SJ30 (see exhibit 7)

#### **Public Comment Work Plan and Interim Study**

15:40:08 Mark Baker, ABS Legal  
 15:43:06 Carly Johnson, Montana Farm Bureaus Federation  
 15:44:37 Larry Robertson, Montana Wine Association  
 15:45:28 Jake Brown, Montana AFL/CIO  
 15:47:47 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors, (MAR)  
 15:49:18 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Association, (MCA)  
 15:50:08 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association, (MMA)  
 15:52:06 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmer's Union

#### **TIMETABLES DISCUSSION**

15:55:37 Presiding Officer Kassmier selected time amounts committee topics  
 15:56:44 Sen. Noland  
 15:57:03 Erin Sullivan  
 15:58:11 Sen. Noland  
 15:59:15 Erin Sullivan  
 16:01:28 Presiding Officer Kassmier organized the members topics  
 16:02:41 Rep. Nicol asked about DPHHS topics for childcare and work force  
 16:03:08 Presiding Officer Kassmier explained how we will study and work on topics  
 16:03:36 Sen. Noland commented about last interim committee  
 16:04:20 Presiding Officer Kassmier outlined topics, and meeting schedule

16:05:27 Erin Sullivan  
16:11:21 Sen. Morigeau  
16:13:58 Erin Sullivan

**PUBLIC COMMENT on any Topic within Jurisdiction of Committee**

16:19:00 Jackie Jones, Pacific Health Source  
**EXHIBIT27**  
16:19:02 Sen. Fitzpatrick noted that the tie vote will need to be weighed in by the Speaker  
of the house and President of the Senate  
16:19:29 Jameson Walker

**ADJOURNMENT**

16:20:43 Presiding Officer Kassmier adjourned the meeting.