



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

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

MINUTES LOG

November 14, 2023
Capital 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:

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. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

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

09:32:39 Presiding Officer Kassmier called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

OVERVIEW

09:33:34 Erin Sullivan, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division, (LSD)
[EXHIBIT1](#)
[EXHIBIT2](#)

CHILDCARE AND THE WORKFORCE

09:35:44 Erin Sullivan
[EXHIBIT3](#)

Department of Labor and Industry

09:37:14 Amy Watson, State Economist, DLI
[EXHIBIT4](#)
[EXHIBIT5](#)

Department of Public Health and Human Services

09:47:05 Tracy Moseman, Early Childhood and Family Support Division Administrator, DPHHS
[EXHIBIT6](#)
[EXHIBIT7](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:06:04 Rep. Karlen
10:06:40 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau

Zero to Five Montana

10:12:30 Caitlin Jensen, Executive Director
[EXHIBIT8](#)
10:26:16 Rhonda Schwenke, Program Director
[EXHIBIT9](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:32:30 Rep. Karlen
10:34:25 Presiding Officer Kassmier
10:36:46 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
10:38:46 Rhonda Schwenke redirected to Tracy Moseman
10:40:53 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
10:41:33 Presiding Officer Kassmier redirected to Rhonda Schwenke

10:43:00 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau

Montana Budget and Policy Center

10:43:49 Xanna Burg, KIDS Count Director, MBPC
[EXHIBIT10](#)

10:44:28 Rachel Wanderscheid, Director, The Montana Afterschool Alliance (see exhibit 10)

Office of Public Instruction

11:08:25 Julie Murgel, Chief Program Officer, OPI
[EXHIBIT11](#)
11:10:23 Carrie Kouba, Innovation & Improvement Senior Manager, OPI (see exhibit 11)
11:12:16 Michelle Cusey, 21st CCLS Program Manager, OPI (see exhibit 11)

Public Comment on Childcare and Workforce

11:14:55 Carrie Krepps, Executive Director, Florence Crittenton
11:22:41 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO

Committee Discussion/Questions

11:26:18 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau to Amy Watson
11:33:28 Rep. Karlen to Carrie Krepps
11:38:51 Presiding Officer Kassmier to Amy Watson
11:39:23 Redirected to Caitlin Jensen
11:40:42 Rep. Nicol to Tracy Moseman
11:44:01 Presiding Officer Kassmier
11:44:14 Sen. Bogner
11:44:32 Rep. Ler
11:45:37 Presiding Officer Kassmier
11:45:54 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
11:49:18 Rep. Karlen
11:49:49 Presiding Officer Kassmier

RECESS

11:50:18 Reconvened at 13:04:28

SJ30 STUDY ON VITICULTURE

13:04:49 Erin Sullivan
[EXHIBIT12](#)

Topic 1: Wine Production

13:07:15 Alyssa Griffith, Vice President, Montana Grape & Wine Association, Owner, Watchdog Winery
13:08:40 Zach Miller, Superintendent, Montana State University / Western Agriculture Research Center
[EXHIBIT13](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:24:22 Rep. Karlen
13:24:51 Sen. Bogner

Topic 1: Wine Production

13:26:41 Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture
13:29:08 Peter Tyler, Flynt Aero Vineyards, Member Montana Grape & Wine Association
13:38:50 Steve Swanson, Division Operating Officer, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division
[EXHIBIT14](#)

Topic 2: Opportunities for Additional Wine Licenses

13:41:06 Larry Robertson, President, Winery Association of Montana
[EXHIBIT15](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:54:45 Presiding Officer Kassmier

Topic 2: Opportunities for Additional Wine Licenses- Continued

13:56:32 Brian McGuire, Secretary/Treasurer, Winery Association of Montana
[EXHIBIT16](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:13:21 Presiding Officer Kassmier

Topic 2: Opportunities for Additional Wine Licenses- Continued

14:15:53 Peter Tyler

Public comment on SJ30

14:24:01 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Distillers Guild

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:25:51 Sen. Bogner
14:26:52 Brian McGuire
14:28:44 Rep. Marshall
14:29:09 Rep. Karlen
14:29:27 Jameson Walker
14:30:13 Presiding Officer Kassmier
14:30:58 Sen. Bogner
14:32:59 Rep. Ler
14:34:00 Presiding Officer Kassmier
14:34:23 Erin Sullivan
14:34:55 Presiding Officer Kassmier
14:35:04 Sen. Bogner
14:35:22 Presiding Officer Kassmier

RECESS

14:35:54 Reconvened at 14:55:44

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

14:55:54 Jameson Walker, Staff Attorney, LSD
[EXHIBIT17](#)
[EXHIBIT17A](#)

Public Comment on Administrative Rule Review

15:03:01 Kristan Barbour, Administrator, Cannabis Control Division (CCD)
15:04:20 Jameson Walker
15:04:38 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:05:13 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild
15:09:08 Jonathan Wright, That One Place Medical Dispensary
15:12:05 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal, Department of Labor and Industry, (DLI)
15:13:28 Kaari Fulton, Self
15:13:46 Christopher Fanuzzi, Lionheart Cannabis

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:15:13 Jameson Walker
15:16:37 Erin Sullivan
15:16:42 Rep. Ler
15:16:52 Presiding Officer Kassmier

15:17:05 Jameson Walker

HOUSING STUDY TOPIC: HB819 MONITORING

15:18:07 Erin Sullivan

Overview

15:19:37 Toni Henneman, Research Analyst, LSD
[EXHIBIT18](#)

HOMES Program Update

15:29:45 Dan Villa, Director, Board of Investments
[EXHIBIT19](#)
[EXHIBIT20](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:32:50 Rep. Karlen
15:36:55 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
15:41:19 Sen. Fitzpatrick

Department of Commerce Programs Update

15:43:24 Cheryl Cohen, Montana Housing Division Administrator, DOC
15:49:49 Galen Steffens, Community MT Division Administrator, DOC

Public comment on Housing Study Topic

15:52:41 NONE

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:53:21 NONE

RECESS

15:54:27 Reconvened at 16:03:45

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: CANNABIS CONTROL DIVISION/MARIJUANA STUDY TOPIC

Topic 1: Synthetic Marijuana Task Force

16:04:06 Kristan Barbour, Division Administrator, CCD
16:05:10 Shane Bancroft, Inspector, CCD
[EXHIBIT21](#)
[EXHIBIT22](#)
16:13:53 Kristan Barbour
[EXHIBIT23](#)
[EXHIBIT24](#)

Topic 2: Laboratory Testing

16:21:28 Andre Umansky, Scientific Director, Fidelity Diagnostics
[EXHIBIT25](#)

Public Comment on Cannabis Control Division / Marijuana Study Topic

16:29:16 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association
16:33:01 Kevin Wysocki, Natural Wellness
16:41:15 Christopher Fanuzzi, Lionheart Cannabis
16:43:53 Kristina Johnson, Nordic Laboratories
16:51:19 Tayln Lang,
16:58:13 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild
17:06:02 Adam Arnold, Self
17:13:13 Kaari Fulton, Self

Committee Discussion/Questions

17:16:07 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
17:23:40 Rep. Marshall
17:27:25 Sen. Bogner

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Public Comment on Anything in the Jurisdiction of the Committee

17:30:37 NONE

Committee Discussion on Childcare and the Workforce

17:30:49 Rep. Ler
17:31:20 Rep. Karlen
17:32:02 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
17:36:02 Presiding Officer Kassmier
17:36:26 Erin Sullivan
17:37:37 Presiding Officer Kassmier
17:37:57 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
17:38:32 Rep. Lynch

17:39:01 Presiding Officer Kassmier
17:39:35 Erin Sullivan

ADJOURNMENT

17:40:43 Presiding Officer Kassmier adjourned the meeting.