



## **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**

March 05, 2024  
Capitol Room 137 & 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, Presiding Officer (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)  
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau Vice Presiding Officer (D)  
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**

09:06:22 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. The committee secretary took roll. ([Attachment 3](#))

**CHILDCARE & THE WORKFORCE**

09:07:08 Erin Sullivan, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT1](#)

[EXHIBIT2](#)

[EXHIBIT3](#)

[EXHIBIT4](#)

[EXHIBIT5](#)

**Topic 1: Regulations**

09:10:20 Eric Copeland, Bureau Chief, Department of Labor and Industry, (DLI)

09:10:21 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

09:17:09 Toni Henneman, Deputy Research Director, LSD

[EXHIBIT6](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

09:25:28 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

09:25:43 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

**Topic 2: Insurance**

09:27:43 Frank Cote, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, State Auditor's Office, (SAO)

[EXHIBIT7](#)

[EXHIBIT8](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

09:33:03 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

09:33:55 Rep. Nelly Nicol

**Topic 3: Affordability & Accessibility Solutions**

09:34:59 Eric Syverson, Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures, (NCSL)

[EXHIBIT9](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

09:51:41 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

**Topic 3: Affordability & Accessibility Solutions- Cont'd**

09:54:18 Bruno Showers, State Policy Manager, Children's Funding Project

[EXHIBIT10](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:03:36 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

**Topic 3: Affordability & Accessibility Solutions- Cont'd**

10:06:34 Xanna Burg, Director, KIDS COUNT  
[EXHIBIT11](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:17:44 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

**Public Comment on Childcare & the Workforce**

10:21:26 Caitlin Jensen, Executive Director, Zero to Five Montana  
[EXHIBIT12](#)

10:28:26 Brandi Thomas, Child Care Connections

10:32:15 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.

10:32:23 Tracy Moseman, Department of Public Health and Human Services, (DPHHS)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:32:59 Rep. Jonathan Karlen to Tracy Moseman

10:39:50 Presiding Officer Kassmier left the meeting and Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau assumed position of the presiding officer.

**Committee Work Session**

10:45:15 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier joined the meeting and assumed position of the presiding officer.

10:46:06 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

10:46:22 Erin Sullivan (See Exhibit 2, Exhibit 3, Exhibit 4, Exhibit 5 and Exhibit 1)

10:53:11 Vice Presiding Shane Morigeau

10:56:54 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

10:57:42 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau

10:58:31 Rep. Jennifer Lynch

10:58:59 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

10:59:48 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

11:00:22 Erin Sullivan

**RECESS**

11:01:39 Reconvened at 11:19:22

**COMMITTEE EDUCATION: BAIL BOND INDUSTRY**

11:19:19 Jameson Walker, Staff Attorney, LSD  
[EXHIBIT13](#)

11:22:14 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau left the meeting.

11:34:10 John Looney, President, Montana Bail Agents Association  
[EXHIBIT14](#)

11:44:01 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.

11:47:30 Frank Cote, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, SAO (See Exhibit 14)

## EXHIBIT15

### Public Comment on Bail Bond Industry

- 11:55:45 Earl Rowe, Bail Bondsman, Missoula, Montana  
11:57:15 Scott Restvedt, Bail Bondsman, Bozeman, Montana

### Committee Discussion/Questions

- 11:59:45 Rep. Nelly Nicol to Frank Cote  
12:12:20 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
12:16:40 Sen. Kenneth Bogner to John Looney

### Committee Work Session

- 12:20:19 Jameson Walker  
12:20:52 Rep. Nelly Nicol

### RECESS

- 12:22:39 Reconvened at 13:07:32

### ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

- 13:07:35 Jameson Walker  
[EXHIBIT16](#)  
[EXHIBIT17](#)  
[EXHIBIT18](#)  
[EXHIBIT19](#)  
[EXHIBIT20](#)  
[EXHIBIT21](#)  
13:21:59 Rep. Jonathan Karlen left the meeting.

### Public Comment on Rule Review

- 13:22:38 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association  
13:24:24 Clancy Kasey, Self  
13:25:12 Rep. Jonathan Karlen joined the meeting.  
13:26:54 Jill Johnson, Self  
13:38:11 Heidi Halverson, Self  
13:44:36 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal Counsel, DLI  
13:45:00 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association, (MTCIA)  
13:45:50 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild  
13:46:38 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory  
13:48:38 Douglas Felt, Uncle Bucks  
13:53:44 Brad Longcake, Montana Dental Hygienist's Association

### Committee Questions/Discussion

- 13:56:06 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
13:59:02 Jameson Walker  
13:59:57 Presiding Officer Kassmier

## **MOTION**

14:00:05 Rep. Nelly Nicol moved to continue the informal objection of MAR Notice No. 24-138-84.

## **Discussion on the Motion**

14:00:23 Jameson Walker

14:02:44 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

## **VOTE**

14:05:25 Carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau voting no. Sen. Noland voting by proxy. ([Attachment 4](#))

## **COMMITTEE TOPIC: MARIJUANA POLICY REVIEW**

14:06:38 Erin Sullivan

[EXHIBIT22](#)

[EXHIBIT23](#)

[EXHIBIT24](#)

[EXHIBIT25](#)

14:07:08 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

14:09:13 Kristan Barbour, Division Administrator, Cannabis Control Division, (CCD)

14:13:10 Brendan Beatty, Director, Department of Revenue, (DOR)

14:15:56 Kate Cholewa, MTCIA

[EXHIBIT26](#)

14:24:47 Pepper Petersen (See Exhibit 24)

## **Public Comment on Marijuana Policy Review**

14:34:03 Jennifer Hensley

[EXHIBIT27](#)

14:41:01 Douglas Felt, Uncle Bucks

14:48:13 Evan Kajander, Apogee Gardens

14:50:34 Brendan Beatty

14:52:24 Mariah Bond, Euphoria Wellness, SoulTonix LLC

14:54:43 Erica Siate, Self

14:57:22 Adam Arnold, Self

15:01:11 Kristan Barbour, CCD

## **Committee Discussion/Questions**

15:02:45 Rep. Brandon Ler to Kate Cholewa

## **Committee Work Session**

15:04:49 Erin Sullivan (See Exhibit 25)

15:12:30 Sen. Kenneth Bogner joined the meeting.

15:12:39 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
15:13:32 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
15:14:02 Redirected to Courtney Cosgrove, CCD  
15:14:44 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier to Pepper Petersen and to Kristan Barbour  
15:18:19 Rep. Brandon Ler to Kate Cholewa

**MOTION**

15:19:55 Rep. Jonathan Karlen moved to draft legislation on the variance for cartridges and topicals.

**VOTE**

15:20:35 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Committee Work Session**

15:21:02 Erin Sullivan  
15:21:52 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
15:22:10 Jameson Walker

**EMERGING TOPIC – BUSINESS DEFICIENCY REPORTS**

15:23:41 Kate Cholewa  
[EXHIBIT28](#)  
15:25:59 Kristan Barbour  
15:27:20 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
15:27:33 Jameson Walker  
15:29:44 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier

**COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

**Public comment on any item in EAIC’s subject matter jurisdiction**

NONE

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

15:31:12 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau

**MOTION**

15:32:00 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau moved to pursue the reinsurance and captive insurance policy options for the childcare study.

**Discussion on the Motion**

15:33:34 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
15:34:32 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
15:36:04 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
15:36:47 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
15:38:02 Rep. Nelly Nicol

15:38:59 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
15:39:11 Erin Sullivan  
15:39:38 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
15:40:08 Erin Sullivan  
15:40:40 Vice Presiding Officer Shan Morigeau restated the motion.

**VOTE**

15:41:10 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**MOTION**

15:41:41 Rep. Jonathan Karlen moved to get bill drafts started for the Best Beginnings Program, tax credits, and public/private partnerships.

**Discussion on the Motion**

15:44:19 Rep. Brandon Ler  
15:44:56 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
15:46:31 Rep. Jonathan Karlen restated the motion.

**VOTE**

15:47:46 The motion failed 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau voting yes. Sen. Noland by proxy. (See Attachment 4)

**Committee Work Session**

15:48:15 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
15:49:27 Jameson Walker  
15:49:54 Presiding Officer Kassmier  
15:50:08 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

**MOTION**

15:50:18 Rep. Jonathan Karlen moved for one partisan bill draft for the Best Beginnings Program, tax credits, and public/private partnerships.

**Discussion on the Motion**

15:50:42 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
15:52:11 Jameson Walker  
15:53:48 Vice Presiding Shane Morigeau to Jameson Walker  
15:55:10 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
15:55:54 Rep. Brandon Ler  
15:56:28 Vice Presiding Shane Morigeau  
15:57:37 Erin Sullivan  
15:58:41 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
15:59:18 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

16:00:10 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
16:00:54 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau

**Meeting Recap**

16:01:33 Erin Sullivan

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

16:03:52 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
16:04:19 Rep. Brandon Ler  
16:04:55 Vice Presiding Officer Shane Morigeau  
16:06:06 Rep. Brandon Ler  
16:06:55 Presiding Officer Joshua Kassmier  
16:07:09 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
16:07:35 Rep. Brandon Ler

**ADJOURNMENT**

16:08:22 Presiding Officer Josh Kassmier adjourned the meeting at 16:08.