



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

September 26, 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, 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:

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

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

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:04:14 Presiding Officer Kassmier called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

INTERIM WORK OVERVIEW

09:04:58 Erin Sullivan, Research Analyst, Lead Staff, LSD

[EXHIBIT1](#)

[EXHIBIT2](#)

[EXHIBIT3](#)

09:06:48 Sen. Fitzpatrick arrived

09:10:45 Sen. Morigeau left

09:19:13 Sen. Morigeau returned

09:22:28 Sen. Fitzpatrick left

Committee Discussion/Questions

09:32:33 Sen. Morigeau

09:33:19 Rep. Nicol

Public Comment on Work Overview

09:34:13 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild

09:38:07 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association

SJ 30- STUDY ON VITICULTURE

09:39:16 Erin Sullivan, LSD

[EXHIBIT4](#)

09:44:23 Jameson Walker, Staff Attorney, LSD

Stakeholder Input

09:51:05 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division

Committee Discussion/Questions

09:51:22 Sen. Noland

Stakeholder Input

09:51:39 Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:01:08 Rep. Karlen

10:02:10 Sen. Noland

10:04:10 Presiding Officer Kassmier left
10:04:12 Sen. Morigeau assumed the position of the Presiding Officer.
10:05:39 Presiding Officer Morigeau

Public Comment on SJ 30 – Study on Viticulture

10:06:54 Brian McGuire, Willow Mountain Winery
10:08:00 Rep. Ler left
10:11:50 Larry Robertson, Winery Association of Montana, MT Grape and Wine Association
10:14:37 Rep. Ler returned

WORKFORCE AND LABOR

10:15:06 Erin Sullivan, LSD
[EXHIBIT5](#)
10:16:25 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner of Labor, Department of Labor and Industry, (DLI)
[EXHIBIT6](#)
[EXHIBIT7](#)
10:31:06 Presiding Officer Kassmier returned
10:31:07 Presiding Officer Kassmier assumed position of the Presiding Officer.

Labor Market Report

10:37:35 Amy Watson, State Economist, DLI
[EXHIBIT7A](#)

10:45:25 Sen. Fitzpatrick returned

DLI Workforce Programs and Initiatives

10:55:03 Barb Wagner, Division Administrator, DLI
10:55:21 Sen. Morigeau left
11:03:37 Rep. Nicol left
11:07:51 Sen. Morigeau returned

NCSL Summit Recap

11:10:38 Erin Sullivan, LSD
[EXHIBIT8](#)

11:10:40 Sen. Noland left

Public Comment on Workforce and Labor

11:12:40 Katelyn Jensen, Executive Director, Zero to Five Montana
[EXHIBIT9](#)
11:17:11 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO

RECESS

11:32:37 Reconvened

COMMITTEE TOPIC- MARIJUANA

Department of Revenue Comments

11:32:49 Brendan Beatty, Director, Department of Revenue, DOR
11:34:22 Rep. Nicol returned
11:34:36 Rep. Ler left
11:34:44 Sen. Morigeau left
11:39:44 Erin Sullivan, LSD
[EXHIBIT10](#)

Presentation on Consumption Lounges

11:45:00 Karen O'Keefe, Director of State Policies, Marijuana Policy Project
[EXHIBIT11](#)
11:50:43 Sen. Noland returned

Public Comment on Marijuana

11:54:12 Nathan Kosted, Self
12:04:28 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections
12:10:18 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild
12:17:31 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association
12:18:49 Katherine Buckley-Patton, Be the Change 406 Coalition, Montana Alliance Prevention
12:25:09 Erica Siate, Self
12:25:26 Beth Price Morrison, Self
12:29:29 Mariah Bond, Euphoria Wellness
12:31:40 Kaari Fulton, Self
12:33:27 Sen. Morigeau returned
12:33:48 Jay Bostrom, Dancing Goats Garden
12:37:07 Rep. Ler returned

Committee Discussion/Questions

12:38:00 Rep. Marshall
12:38:25 Rep. Karlen
12:39:14 Sen. Bogner
12:41:44 Sen. Fitzpatrick
12:47:05 Sen. Morigeau

RECESS

13:18:09 Reconvened

COMMITTEE TOPIC- MARIJUANA

13:18:31 Kristan Barbour, Cannabis Control Division, DOR

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

13:20:05 Jameson Walker, LSD

[EXHIBIT12](#)

13:21:37 Sen. Morigeau left

13:27:15 Rep. Nicol left

Public Comment on Administrative Rule Review

13:30:49 Ingrid Lovitt, MT Naturopathic Physicians

13:33:05 Sen. Morigeau returned

13:33:11 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association

13:34:49 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:35:22 Rep. Ler

COMMITTEE TOPIC- AGRICULTURE- 2023 FARM BILL

13:37:31 Cort Jensen, Chief Attorney, Department of Agriculture, (AGR)

13:41:33 Erin Sullivan, LSD

[EXHIBIT13](#)

Stakeholder Input

13:47:57 Raylee Honeycutt, Executive Vice President, Montana Stockgrowers Association

13:54:20 Sen. Fitzpatrick left

13:54:44 Nicole Rolf, Sr. Director of Governmental Affairs, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

[EXHIBIT14](#)

14:01:19 Presiding Officer Kassmier talked for the National Association of Wheat Growers.

[EXHIBIT15](#)

Public Comment on Agriculture

14:02:45 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmer's Union

14:03:35 Presiding Officer Kassmier

Ballot Issue 9

14:07:15 Sen. Noland left

14:07:29 Jameson Walker, LSD

[EXHIBIT16](#)

[EXHIBIT17](#)

Public Comment on Ballot Issue 9

14:12:31 Tony Hudson, Self

14:13:48 Rep. Nicol returned

14:15:09 Terry Nelson, Self

14:17:01 James Brown, Self

MOTION

14:20:40 Sen. Noland returned

14:21:08 Rep. Ler moved to support placement of I-192 on the ballot.

Vote:

14:21:08 Carried unanimously by roll call vote with Sen. Fitzpatrick "yes" by proxy. ([Attachment3](#))

RECESS

14:41:50 Reconvened

AMBULANCE PROVIDER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM REVIEW (HB828)

14:42:10 Erin Sullivan, LSD

[EXHIBIT18](#)

14:45:49 Sen. Bogner left

Public Comment on Ambulance Provider Assessment Program Review

14:47:54 Mark Baker, Sellers Dorsey and Montana Ambulance Association

14:48:48 Sen. Bogner returned

14:49:22 Don Wayland, Montana Ambulance Association

14:50:56 Rand Dickson, Director, Ambulance Service Powell County

14:51:55 Justin Grohs, Montana EMS Association

14:54:31 Rich Cowger, Fire Chief, Rural Fire and Montana State Fire Chiefs Association

14:56:01 Sen. Fitzpatrick returned

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:57:16 Sen. Morigeau

15:00:34 Sen. Noland

15:01:42 Sen. Fitzpatrick

BIOMETRIC PRIVACY REVIEW (SB351)

15:03:16 Erin Sullivan, LSD

[EXHIBIT19](#)

Public Comment on Biometric Privacy Review

15:11:38 Mark Baker, Glaxosmithkline, (GSK)

15:13:02 Jeff Woodhouse, State Government Affairs, GSK

15:16:42 Susan Griffin, GSK

15:19:35 Don Cape, Coalition for Safety and Justice

15:23:48 Ann Blackwood, Coalition for Genetic Data Collection

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:26:21 Sen. Bogner
15:29:08 Sen. Noland
15:33:17 Sen. Bogner

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

15:34:46 Erin Sullivan, LSD (see exhibit 3)

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:37:25 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:38:49 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:41:43 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:42:13 Sen. Bogner
15:42:34 Rep. Ler
15:44:01 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:44:25 Rep. Ler
15:45:08 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:46:35 Erin Sullivan
15:46:50 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:47:00 Erin Sullivan
15:48:02 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:48:17 Erin Sullivan
15:48:51 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:49:02 Erin Sullivan
15:50:09 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:50:33 Rep. Nicol
15:50:50 Erin Sullivan
15:51:18 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:51:55 Rep. Ler
15:52:51 Rep. Karlen
15:53:41 Erin Sullivan
15:54:19 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:54:24 Sen. Bogner
15:55:08 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:55:14 Erin Sullivan

MOTION

15:56:32 Sen. Morigeau moved to adopt final work plan.

Discussion on the Motion

15:56:56 Erin Sullivan, LSD
[EXHIBIT20](#)

15:58:01 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:58:08 Sen. Bogner
15:58:25 Jameson Walker
15:59:23 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:59:46 Sen. Noland

Vote:

12:52:42 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

16:00:23 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association
16:02:23 Don Cape, Coalition for Safety and Justice
16:05:01 Nick Mazanec, Montana State Fund, MSF

MOTION

16:06:11 Sen. Bogner moved for an informal objection of MAR Notice 24-156-94.

Discussion on the Motion

16:07:33 Jameson Walker
16:08:37 Sen. Morigeau
16:09:07 Jameson Walker

Vote:

16:09:50 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

16:10:21 Presiding Officer Kassmier adjourned the meeting.