



ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Brad Molnar
Christopher Pope
Jacelyn Sterling
Barry Usher
Daniel Zolnikov

HOUSE MEMBERS

Laurie Bishop
Steven Galloway
Gary Parry
Katie Zolnikov

COMMITTEE STAFF

Trevor Graff - Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary
Jameson Walker - Attorney

MINUTES LOG

August 01, 2023

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:

Sen. Brad Molnar
Rep. Steven Galloway
Rep. Gary Parry
Sen. Christopher Pope
Sen. Barry Usher
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
Rep. Katie Zolnikov

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Laurie Bishop

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Trevor Graff, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary
Jameson Walker, Attorney

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:04:19 Brad Molnar-R called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

INTRODUCTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

09:06:17 Rep. Parry
09:06:58 Sen. Pope
09:08:43 Sen. Zolnikov
09:10:19 Rep. Galloway
09:12:00 Sen. Molnar
09:14:15 Rep. Zolnikov
09:15:18 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:15:44 Jacelyn Sterling, Committee Secretary
09:16:26 Trevor Graff, LSD

PURPOSE OF ETIC & STATUTORY DUTIES OVERVIEW

09:20:07 Trevor Graff
09:23:02 Jameson Walker
09:26:56 Sen. Pope
09:27:55 Jameson Walker
09:29:15 Rep. Parry

Motion

09:30:17 Rep. Zolnikov proposed to amend the rules to state any meeting regarding ballot initiatives to be an irregular meeting.

Vote

09:30:17 Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.
09:33:05 Jameson Walker

Motion

09:34:39 Rep. Galloway moved to amend the rules to state all online witnesses give an introduction.
09:35:43 Trevor Graff

Motion

09:36:41 Rep. Galloway, moved to amend the rules to require blank screens on videos of online witnesses.

Discussion

09:37:10 Trevor Graff
09:37:52 Sen. Pope
09:38:15 Trevor Graff
09:38:38 Rep. Galloway

09:39:26 Sen. Zolnikov second the motion of Rep. Galloway.
09:39:47 Rep. Parry
09:40:18 Jameson Walker clarified Rep. Galloway's motion. Online participation will not have logos or background images during testimony. Online testimony participants will give home state and town as identification to the committee.

Vote

09:42:18 Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

Motion/Vote

09:42:51 Sen. Molnar moved to adopt the rules as amended.
09:43:13 Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

ETIC Presiding Officer Nomination and Election:

09:43:57 Rep. Parry nominated Rep. Zolnikov as the Presiding Officer for the committee.
09:44:22 Sen. Molnar nominated himself as Presiding Officer for the committee.
09:44:42 Rep. Zolnikov accepted the nomination from Rep. Parry for the Presiding Officer.
09:45:52 Sen. Molnar explained his nomination for Presiding Officer

Vote on Election of Rep. Zolnikov as Presiding Officer

09:49:57 Carried unanimously by voice vote.
09:50:10 Sen. Zolnikov nominated Sen. Pope as Presiding Vice Chair of Committee.

Vote:

09:50:10 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:51:14 Recessed
10:01:38 Reconvened

Introduction and Review of Interim Work Plan Options:

10:01:45 Trevor Graff
10:10:23 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:11:09 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association
10:11:37 Doug Hardy, General Manager of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative
10:12:39 Bruce Spencer, Montana Energy Business Alliance
10:13:59 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:14:15 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO

Committee Discussion

10:16:02 Sen. Molnar to Doug Hardy
10:20:40 Sen. Pope to Doug Hardy
10:24:03 Rep. Parry to Mark Lambrecht
10:25:39 Sen. Usher to Doug Hardy
10:27:27 Sen. Zolnikov on work plan.
10:30:05 Sen. Molnar to Trevor Graff

10:32:08 Rep. Galloway discussion of intended study bill.
 10:33:52 Sen. Pope
 10:35:56 Rep. Parry
 10:36:43 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
 10:38:01 Trevor Graff
 10:40:39 Sen. Pope
 10:42:26 Sen. Molnar
 10:51:07 Presiding Officer Zolnikov reviewed the committee work metrics breakdown.
 10:53:29 Sen. Zolnikov
 10:54:12 Trevor Graff

ETIC Energy Publications Updates

10:53:29 Trevor Graff
 10:57:03 Rep. Parry

10:58:18 Recessed
 11:07:12 Reconvened

INTRODUCTION TO USB

11:07:30 Trevor Graff
 11:21:30 Sen. Zolnikov
 11:22:42 Doug Hardy, Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative
 11:28:27 Sen. Pope
 11:29:21 Trevor Graff
 11:29:43 Sen. Pope
 11:30:50 Doug Hardy
 11:32:35 Rep. Parry
 11:34:09 Trevor Graff
 11:35:16 Rep. Parry
 11:36:16 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
 11:38:04 Trevor Graff
 11:38:40 Sen. Zolnikov
 11:39:13 Rep. Parry
 11:40:47 Trevor Graff

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

11:41:17 Jameson Walker
 11:49:48 Rep. Parry
 11:50:54 Sen. Pope
 11:51:02 Trevor Graff

Lunch Break

11:21:57

Public Service Commission Overview

13:00:07 James Brown, President, Public Service Commission (PSC)
 13:27:58 Randall Pinocci, Commissioner, PSC
 13:31:54 Annie Bukacek, PSC
 13:33:55 Sen. Zolnikov
 13:35:20 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy
 13:36:59 Sen. Zolnikov
 13:38:29 James Brown, PSC
 13:41:04 Sen. Zolnikov
 13:42:06 Daniel Sherwood, Railroad Safety Program Manager, PSC
 13:43:20 Rep. Galloway
 13:50:08 Rep. Parry
 13:52:35 Sen.
 14:05:01 Rep. Galloway
 14:08:27 Sen. Zolnikov
 14:11:46 Daniel Sherwood, PSC
 14:13:34 Sen. Zolnikov
 14:17:23 Rep. Galloway

MONTANA ENERGY INFORMATION

14:21:04 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Council
 14:23:51 Chris Dorrington, Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 14:26:48 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
 14:39:27 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy

ADOPTION OF WORK PLAN OPTIONS

14:42:05 Trevor Graff
 14:43:05 Sen. Zolnikov
 14:46:25 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
 14:46:43 Rep. Galloway discussion of intended bill for ETIC to consider this interim
 14:51:58 Sen. Pope
 14:54:53 Rep. Galloway
 14:58:06 Sen. Zolnikov
 15:00:56 Sen. Pope
 15:02:14 Presiding Officer Zolnikov

Motion

15:04:18 Sen. Usher made a motion on the study topic for the committee.

Vote:

15:05:18 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Discussion

15:06:53 Sen. Zolnikov
 15:08:10 Sen. Pope

15:09:20 Rep. Galloway suggested the committee include 101 terminology training as part of future meetings.

15:10:20 Presiding Officer Zolnikov

15:10:37 Sen. Usher

15:11:49 Rep. Parry

15:13:22 Sen. Zolnikov

15:13:30 Trevor Graff

15:14:50 Sen. Zolnikov

15:16:06 Rep. Parry

15:18:28 Sen. Usher

15:20:04 Sen. Pope

15:22:01 Rep. Parry

15:23:19 Trevor Graff

15:25:41 Rep. Parry

15:26:43 Rep. Galloway

15:30:11 Presiding Officer Zolnikov went over September meeting topic, trends that drive energy transitions.

15:31:34 Rep. Parry

15:32:08 Presiding Officer Zolnikov

15:32:46 Trevor Graff

15:33:45 Sen. Zolnikov

15:34:39 Trevor Graff reviewed upcoming meeting dates.

Motion/vote

15:43:28 Sen. Usher moved to adopt the topics for September meeting and finalized upcoming dates. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

15:44:36 Sen. Molnar objecting to the suggested work plan requests, discussed interested topics for the committee.

15:48:25 Sen. Usher

Motion/Vote

15:48:38 Sen. Zolnikov moved to begin bill draft process researching and problem-solving railroad safety. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote of those present and voting.

15:50:13 Trevor Graff

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:51:27