



LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

John Esp
Chris Friedel
Ryan Lynch
Keith Regier

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jodee Etchart
Donavon Hawk
Caleb Hinkle
Amy Regier

COMMITTEE STAFF

Julianne Burkhardt - Attorney
Sara Hess - Research Analyst
Bethany McDowell - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

February 21, 2024

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. Amy Regier, Chair (R)
Rep. Donavon Hawk, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney
Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst
LaVanda Jennings, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

12:59:53 Presiding Officer Regier called the meeting to order at 12:59 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

Field Trip to Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA)

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:00:46 Sen. Regier

Public Comment on Field Trip to MLEA

13:01:11 NONE

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:00:51 Sen. Esp

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES IN RAPID CITY, SD

13:02:20 Sen. Usher, SD 20

13:03:17 Amber Widgery, National Conference of State Legislatures, (NCSL)
[EXHIBIT1](#)

13:17:50 Sen. Usher, SD 20
[EXHIBIT2](#)

Public Comment on Behavioral Health Facilities

13:26:33 Josh Butterfly, Prayers Warrior Tribal Council

13:28:52 Andy Hudak, Flathead Valley

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:30:07 Sen. Friedel

13:33:54 Amber Widgery
[EXHIBIT3](#)

13:36:35 Rachel Weiss
[EXHIBIT4](#)

13:37:07 Sen. Esp to Amber Widgery

DISCUSSION RE: HB 423 (COMPENSATION FOR WRONGFULLY CONVICTED)

13:40:12 Rachel Weiss
[EXHBIT5](#)

13:44:29 Julianne Burkhardt

Public Comment on HB 423

13:46:42 Amy Sings in the Timber, Montana Innocence Project

13:51:55 Josh Butterfly, Self

13:53:34 May Simmons, Self

13:55:45 Vice Presiding Officer Hawk left the meeting.

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:56:37 Sen. Esp to Julianne Burkhardt (EXHIBIT6)
13:58:06 Rachel Weiss
13:58:41 Sen. Friedel

DISCUSSION RE: SB 95 (REVISING SENTENCING LAWS FOR THEFT)

13:59:59 Sen. Usher
14:00:34 Julianne Burkhardt
[EXHIBIT7](#)
14:02:11 Sen. Usher
14:02:36 Vice Presiding Officer Hawk joined the meeting.

Public Comment on SB 95

14:07:03 Josh Butterfly

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:08:01 Sen. Friedel

MOTION

14:09:04 Sen. Esp moved to draft bill SB 95 from the 2023 session but without sections 7 and 8.

Discussion on the Motion

14:09:27 Sen. Regier to Sen. Esp
14:09:55 Sen. Usher
14:10:14 Sen. Esp
14:10:51 Rachel Weiss
14:11:30 Sen. Regier to Julianne Burkhardt
14:12:12 Sen. Esp
14:12:20 Sen. Friedel
14:12:39 Sen. Esp

VOTE

14:13:24 **Vote:** Carried 6 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Hawk, Sen. Lynch voting no. Sen. Lynch By Proxy [Attachment 3](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

14:14:12 Julianne Burkhardt
[EXHIBIT8](#)
14:15:17 Sen. Regier left the meeting.
14:17:41 Sen. Lynch left the meeting.

Public Comment on Administrative Rule Review

14:18:34 NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS IN LJIC'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

14:18:58 May Simmons, Self

14:20:46 Sen. Regier joined the meeting.
14:22:36 Josh Butterfly, Prayer Warriors Tribal Council

WORK SESSION

14:24:40 Presiding Officer Regier
[EXHIBIT9](#)
14:25:08 Vice Presiding Officer Hawk and Sen. Lynch by proxy changed votes on the
prior motion from aye to nay.
14:25:20 Rachel Weiss (See Exhibit 9)
14:27:28 Sen. Esp
14:29:09 Sen. Regier
14:30:23 Presiding Officer Regier
14:30:42 Sen. Friedel
14:33:56 Sen. Esp
14:34:44 Sen. Friedel
14:36:43 Sen. Esp
14:37:44 Presiding Officer Regier
14:38:04 Sen. Friedel
14:38:22 Vice Presiding Officer Hawk
14:39:03 Presiding Officer Regier
14:39:28 Sen. Friedel
14:39:55 Presiding Officer Regier
14:40:01 Sen. Friedel
14:40:14 Vice Presiding Officer Hawk

ADJOURNMENT

14:40:44 Presiding Officer Regier adjourned the meeting.