



SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mary Ann Dunwell
Janet Ellis
Jason Ellsworth
Daniel Emrich
Steve Fitzpatrick
Chris Friedel
Carl Glimm
Jen Gross
Steve Hinebauch
Tom McGillvray
Wendy McKamey
Shane Morigeau
Mark Noland
Andrea Olsen
Barry Usher

HOUSE MEMBERS

Lyn Hellegaard
Fiona Nave
Sue Vinton

COMMITTEE STAFF

Daniel Rosenberg - Secretary

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Andrew Billstein
Joan Mell
Jim Ramlow

MINUTES LOG

April 29, 2024
Capitol 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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Jason Ellsworth, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Barry Usher, Vice Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Rosenberg, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

10:01:44 Presiding Officer Jason Ellsworth called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

WELCOME

10:02:27 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
10:06:27 Presiding Officer Sen. Ellsworth
10:09:05 Vice Presiding Officer Usher

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

10:12:16 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
10:13:07 Sen. Friedel
10:13:39 Rep. Hellegaard
10:13:53 Sen. Emrich
10:14:32 Jim Ramlow, Attorney, Whitefish
10:15:16 Joan Mell, Attorney, Hamilton
10:15:26 Sen. McGillvray
10:15:37 Rep. Nave
10:15:57 Sen. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting via Zoom.
10:16:02 Sen. McKamey
10:16:29 Sen. Glimm
10:16:40 Sen. Noland
10:17:03 Vice Presiding Officer Usher
10:17:34 Rep. Vinton
10:17:55 Sen. Hinebauch
10:18:11 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:18:25 Andrew Billstein, Attorney, Billings

US AND MONTANA CONSTITUTION 101

10:20:00 Jim Ramlow, Attorney, Ramlow & Rudbach
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
10:26:16 Presiding Officer Ellsworth

10:26:56 Jim Ramlow
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Public Comment

11:15:17 Jerry O'Neil, Former Legislator

Committee Questions/ Discussion

11:21:58 Sen. McGillvray
11:23:08 Jim Ramlow
11:26:07 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
11:26:59 Jim Ramlow
11:27:46 Sen. McGillvray
11:28:27 Jim Ramlow
11:31:19 Sen. McGillvray
11:33:37 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
11:34:39 Jim Ramlow
11:34:48 Sen. McGillvray
11:35:13 Jim Ramlow
11:36:22 Sen. Glimm
11:37:47 Jim Ramlow
11:39:30 Sen. Noland
11:40:05 Sen. Usher
11:40:35 Sen. Emrich
11:41:31 Jim Ramlow
11:50:03 Sen. McGillvray
11:51:37 Jim Ramlow
11:53:18 Sen. Friedel
11:54:04 Jim Ramlow
11:54:24 Sen. Usher
11:54:51 Jim Ramlow
11:55:23 Presiding Officer Ellsworth

RECESS

11:55:53 Reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Motion

13:28:49 Vice Presiding Officer Usher moved to allow proxy voting in this committee.

13:29:04 **Vote:** Carried unanimously by voice vote.

SEPARATION OF POWERS/ROLE AND AUTHORITY OF EACH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

13:29:34 Jim Ramlow (see Exhibit 1)

RECESS

14:31:56 Reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

Public Comment

14:41:07 George Wolcott, Chief of Staff for the Senate Democratic Caucus

Committee Questions/ Discussion

14:42:15 Vice Presiding Officer Usher

14:42:48 Jim Ramlow

14:47:33 Andrew Billstein

14:48:08 Jim Ramlow

14:49:48 Sen. Noland

14:50:26 Jim Ramlow

14:51:15 Vice Presiding Officer Usher

14:51:54 Jim Ramlow

14:54:03 Vice Presiding Officer Usher

14:54:32 Joan Mell

14:58:22 Sen. McGillvray

15:00:47 Jim Ramlow

15:10:06 Sen. Emrich

15:13:12 Jim Ramlow

15:17:06 Joan Mell

15:19:42 Rep. Nave

15:21:10 Jim Ramlow

15:24:37 Sen. McGillvray

15:26:52 Presiding Officer Ellsworth

15:27:53 Jim Ramlow

15:28:12 Joan Mell

15:29:41 Vice Presiding Officer Usher

15:30:29 Jim Ramlow

15:30:57 Presiding Officer Ellsworth

15:32:17 Jim Ramlow

Public Comment

15:35:38 George Wolcott, Chief of Staff for the Senate Democratic Caucus

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

15:37:02 Presiding Officer Ellsworth

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

15:38:28 Todd Everts, Director, Legal Services Office, Legislative Services Division

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

15:50:36 Presiding Officer Ellsworth

Committee Questions/ Discussion

15:50:56 Vice Presiding Officer Usher
15:51:28 Todd Everts
15:53:32 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
15:54:31 Sen. Glimm
15:56:24 Todd Everts
16:01:00 Sen. Noland
16:01:34 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
16:02:12 Todd Everts
16:02:41 Sen. Friedel
16:03:38 Todd Everts
16:07:23 Sen. McKamey
16:07:47 Todd Everts
16:08:29 Rep. Nave
16:09:34 Todd Everts
16:10:36 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
16:12:43 Todd Everts
16:13:31 Sen. Emrich
16:14:04 Todd Everts
16:15:00 Sen. Emrich
16:15:27 Sen. Friedel
16:15:40 Vice Presiding Officer Usher
16:15:57 Todd Everts
16:16:49 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
16:17:06 Sen. Fitzpatrick
16:18:04 Todd Everts
16:18:40 Presiding Officer Ellsworth

Future Topics

16:19:15 Vice Presiding Officer Usher

Committee Questions/ Discussion

16:19:59 Sen. McKamey
16:20:21 Sen. Noland
16:21:18 Sen. McGillvray
16:24:39 Sen. Fitzpatrick
16:26:33 Sen. Noland
16:27:01 Joan Mell
16:27:43 Sen. Friedel

16:28:23 Andrew Billstein
16:29:21 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
16:29:53 Sen. Emrich
16:31:14 Rep. Nave
16:32:03 Sen. McGillvray
16:32:27 Vice Presiding Officer Usher
16:33:00 Presiding Officer Ellsworth
16:37:14 Vice Presiding Officer Usher

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:38:39