



## STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

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### 68th Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Cuffe  
Janet Ellis  
Forrest Mandeville  
Wendy McKamey

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

Marta Bertoglio  
Julie Dooling  
Ross Fitzgerald  
Gregory Frazer  
Kelly Kortum  
Ed Stafman

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

LJ Jennings - Secretary  
Rebecca Power - Research Analyst  
Andria Hardin, Attorney

# MINUTES LOG

July 21, 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:**

Rep. Julie Dooling, Chair (R)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)  
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

LJ Jennings, Secretary  
Andria Hardin, Attorney

Rebecca Power, Research  
Analyst

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

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

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

09:03:27 Sen. Mike Cuffe called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

09:05:03 Jeff T. Perry, Rural Montana, International Leaders Program

**INTRODUCTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

09:09:40 Committee members

09:17:43 Public comment instructions

09:20:23 Staff

**Election of Officers**

**Motion**

09:24:23 Rep. Bertoglio moved to have Rep. Dooling as Presiding Officer.

09:24:53 Sen. McKamey

09:25:07 Rep. Stafman

09:25:26 Rep. Dooling moved to be Presiding Officer.

**Vote:**

09:25:46 Carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Frazer was not present for the vote and did not leave a proxy.

**Motion**

09:26:51 Rep. Dooling moved to have Rep. Kortum as Vice Presiding Officer.

09:27:15 Sen. Mandeville

09:27:49 Rep. Kortum moved to Vice Presiding Officer.

**Vote:**

09:28:06 Carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Frazer was not present for the vote and did not leave a proxy.

**RECESS**

09:32:55 Rep. Frazer has arrived

09:34:32 Reconvened

**COMMITTEE RULES DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

09:35:09 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division, (LSD)

**EXHIBIT1**

09:35:34 Andria Hardin, Staff Attorney, LSD

09:36:57 Presiding Officer Dooling

09:37:16 Rebecca Power  
 09:37:26 Sen. Ellis  
 09:38:14 Sen. Mandeville  
 09:39:47 Sen. Cuffe  
 09:40:31 Sen. Ellis  
 09:45:38 Sen. McKamey  
 09:46:06 Sen. Cuffe  
 09:46:42 Presiding Officer Dooling  
 09:47:30 Sen. McKamey  
 09:48:20 Sen. Ellis  
 09:49:54 Rep. Stafman  
 09:51:18 Presiding Officer Dooling  
 09:51:27 Rep. Bertoglio  
 09:52:04 Sen. McKamey  
 09:52:14 Sen. Cuffe  
 09:53:19 Sen. Ellis

**Public Comment- Committee Rules**

09:54:03 None

**Motion**

09:54:42 Vice Chair Kortum Moved to adopt the rules

**Motion**

09:55:57 Vice Chair Kortum moved to amend the rules under item 2

**Vote:**

09:55:58 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion**

09:56:01 Vice Chair Kortum moved to adopt rules as amended

**Vote:**

09:56:03 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ROLES**

09:57:01 Rebecca Power

**WELCOME TO SAVA**

09:59:06 Rebecca Power

**WEBSITE TOUR**

10:00:51 Rebecca Power  
[EXHIBIT2](#)

**DRAFT WORK PLAN DISSCUSSION**

10:04:01 Rebecca Power  
[EXHIBIT3](#)

**EXHIBIT4**  
**EXHIBIT5**

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:10:57 Sen. McKamey asked about the study for Veterans long term care.  
10:11:23 Sen. Cuffe  
10:15:28 Sen. McKamey asked about traveling to an election.  
10:15:53 Presiding Officer Dooling  
10:16:36 Sen. Cuffe  
10:17:00 Presiding Officer Dooling  
10:17:09 Sen. Cuffe  
10:17:35 Rebecca Power  
10:17:43 Sen. Cuffe  
10:17:57 Sen. Mandeville  
10:19:31 Presiding Officer Dooling  
10:19:51 Rep. Kortum asked about process for draft plan.  
10:20:12 Rebecca Power  
10:20:21 Sen. Ellis commented about a date conflict.

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, (SOS)**

10:21:37 Christi Jacobson, Secretary of State, SOS

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:22:51 Sen. Ellis asked about redistricting maps  
10:24:33 Austin James, SOS  
10:24:43 Sen. Ellis  
10:24:59 Austin James, SOS  
10:25:04 Sen. Ellis  
10:25:29 Austin James, SOS  
10:25:34 Sen. Ellis  
10:25:45 Austin James, SOS  
10:25:58 Sen. Mandeville  
10:26:12 Austin James, SOS  
10:26:54 Sen. Cuffe  
10:28:18 Sen. Ellis  
10:28:27 Sen. Cuffe  
10:28:42 Presiding Officer Dooling

**SAVA LEGISLATION HISTORY**

10:29:25 Rebecca Power

**EXHIBIT6**

**Resumed Presentation, SOS**

10:29:58 Rep. Kortum asked SOS about maps for redistricting.  
10:30:27 Austin James, SOS  
10:30:39 Rep. Bertoglio asked about precinct information.  
10:31:18 Austin James, SOS  
10:31:34 Sen. Cuffe  
10:32:33 Chair Dooling

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES, (COPP)**

10:32:53 Chris Gallus, Commissioner, COPP  
**EXHIBIT7**

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:50:44 Sen. Ellis asked about campaign finance complaints.  
10:51:21 Chris Gallus, COPP  
10:54:08 Sen. McKamey asked about candidates filing for participating in any kind of campaign.  
10:54:39 Chris Gallus, COPP

**RECESS**

11:09:11 Reconvened

**DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION, (DOA)**

11:09:34 Misty Ann Giles, Director, DOA  
**EXHIBIT8**

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

11:13:52 Rep. Kortum asked about NTIA money,  
11:14:15 Misty Ann Giles  
11:14:39 Rep. Kortum  
11:14:45 Misty Ann Giles  
11:16:10 Sen. Ellis asked about 911 advisory council see exhibit 2.  
11:16:35 Misty Ann Giles  
11:16:48 Sen. Ellis asked about STISD rates and oversight.  
11:17:05 Misty Ann Giles

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**

11:18:42 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Adjutant General, Montana National Guard

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

11:21:10 Sen. Mandeville has left  
11:30:47 Sen. Cuffe asked about funding being a 4 to 1.  
11:31:12 Maj Gen J. Peter Hronek, MT National Guard  
11:31:53 Sen. Mandeville has arrived  
11:32:47 Rep. Bertoglio asked about youth challenge expansion.

11:33:28 Maj Gen J. Peter Hronek, MT National Guard  
 11:36:13 Sen. McKamey asked about needs from committee this interim.  
 11:36:27 Maj Gen J. Peter Hronek, MT National Guard  
 11:38:35 Sen. Ellis asked about military affairs projects.  
 11:39:18 Maj Gen J. Peter Hronek, MT National Guard  
 11:41:06 Rep. Fitzgerald asked about House Bill 527 and the threat in country.  
 11:41:56 Maj Gen J. Peter Hronek, MT National Guard  
 11:45:50 Sen. McKamey  
 11:46:52 Maj Gen J. Peter Hronek, MT National Guard  
 11:48:49 Presiding Officer Dooling

#### **MONTANA VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIVISION, (MVAD)**

11:50:03 Kelly Ackerman, Administrator, MVAD  
**EXHIBIT9**

#### **Committee Discussion/Questions**

11:57:42 Sen. McKamey asked about the Merci Train.  
 11:57:43 Kelly Ackerman  
 11:58:56 Roger Hagan, Montana Department of the American Legion  
 12:00:28 Rep. Bertoglio requested about calendar items of significance.

#### **RECESS**

13:01:08 Reconvened

#### **TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, (TRS)**

13:01:27 Shawn Graham, Executive Director, TRS  
**EXHIBIT10**

#### **Committee Discussion/Questions**

13:13:27 Sen. Mandeville asked about surveys and option plans.  
 13:13:51 Shawn Graham  
 13:14:33 Sen. Mandeville  
 13:14:34 Shawn Graham  
 13:14:50 Sen. Mandeville see exhibit 11, asked about DB structure.  
 13:16:06 Shawn Graham  
 13:17:30 Sen. Mandeville  
 13:17:44 Sen. Cuffe asked about page 7 see exhibit 10.  
 13:19:17 Shawn Graham  
 13:19:47 Sen. Cuffe  
 13:19:49 Shawn Graham  
 13:20:09 Sen. Cuffe  
 13:20:30 Shawn Graham  
 13:21:15 Sen. Cuffe

13:22:32 Rep. Bertoglio asked about school districts taking advantage of working retiree provision.  
13:23:09 Shawn Graham  
13:25:00 Sen. McKamey asked about GABA.  
13:26:15 Shawn Graham

**MONTANA PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION, (MPERA)**

13:28:31 Dore Schwinden, Executive Director  
**EXHIBIT11**  
13:29:23 Rep. Frazer has left  
13:29:44 Sen. Cuffe has left  
13:30:32 Sen. Cuffe has arrived  
13:33:41 William Holahan, Deputy Director, MPERA

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

13:40:27 Sen. Ellis asked about page 3 see exhibit 11 for active members is that fund retained.  
13:41:14 William Holahan  
13:42:09 Sen. Ellis  
13:42:33 William Holahan  
13:42:52 Sen. Ellis asked about the experience study being amended.  
13:43:35 William Holahan  
13:44:24 Sen. Ellis noted in the Green sheets.  
**EXHIBIT12**  
13:46:13 William Holahan  
13:46:41 Sen Cuffe see exhibit 11, mentioned the stipulation for funding will not exceed unless additional funding.  
13:47:58 Rep. Fitzgerald asked about volunteer fire departments.  
13:49:11 Dore Schwinden

**MONTANA BOARD OF INVESTMENTS, (BOI)**

13:51:06 Dan Villa, Executive Director, BOI  
**EXHIBIT13**

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

13:54:34 Rep. Kortum asked about Senate Bill 309 impacts.  
13:55:01 Dan Villa  
13:55:08 Rep. Kortum asked about the size and makeup of the board. Dan  
13:55:19 Villa  
13:55:29 Sen. Cuffe asked if the 2013 plans was working out as  
13:56:21 envisioned. Dan Villa  
14:01:56 Rep. Bertoglio asked about the housing program.  
14:02:37 Dan Villa

**PUBLIC COMMENT on Any Topic Within Committee Jurisdiction**

14:06:33 Roger Hagan, Montana Department of the American Legion

14:11:15 Rebecca Power  
14:11:31 Roger Haga  
14:12:13 Ginger Aldrich, Yellowstone County Election Administrator  
14:18:35 Carole Mackin, Self  
14:19:27 Joe Walsh, Self  
14:21:11 Rep. Kortum asked about the work plan process.  
14:21:19 Rebecca Power

### **RECESS**

14:32:21 Reconvened

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW**

14:33:04 Andria Hardin  
**EXHIBIT14**  
**EXHIBIT15**

### **Committee/Discussion/Questions**

14:36:14 Sen. Cuffe has arrived  
14:46:20 Sen. McKamey asked about reviewing the rules in a report.  
14:47:34 Andria Hardin  
14:48:12 Sen. McKamey  
14:49:30 Andria Hardin  
14:50:47 Sen. Ellis asked how the rule review was done before.  
14:51:26 Rebecca Power  
14:52:31 Andria Hardin  
14:53:12 Sen. Ellis  
14:54:19 Sen. McKamey  
14:54:28 Sen. Ellis  
14:54:46 Sen. Cuffe

### **Public Comment on Administrative Rule Review**

14:55:25 None

### **SAVA WORK PLAN DISCUSSION**

14:56:03 Rebecca Power, see exhibit 3  
**EXHIBIT 16**  
14:58:55 Sen. Ellis asked about amortization report.  
15:00:20 Sen. Mandeville asked about pensions study.  
15:03:42 Sen. McKamey has left  
15:06:29 Sen. Cuffe asked about bill from Rep. Stafman.  
15:06:39 Sen. Mandeville commented about ballot issues and election security.  
15:07:50 Sen. Ellis  
15:10:43 Presiding Officer Dooling commented on school trustees elections.



15:11:53 Rep. Bertoglio asked about military contracting.  
 15:12:35 Sen. McKamey commented about the security of elections.  
 15:13:15 Sen. Cuffe  
 15:15:49 Sen. Ellis asked about field trips.  
 15:17:32 Rep. Kortum commented on universal voter registration, postage stamps and elections in general.  
 15:19:33 Sen. Cuffe  
 15:21:36 Sen. Ellis  
 15:22:39 Sen. Mandeville asked how to narrow down the member topic list.  
 15:23:37 Presiding Officer Dooling explained how she is going to get the plan built.  
 15:25:22 Sen. Mandeville discussing military contracting  
 15:27:28 Rep. Kortum  
 15:29:48 Rebecca Power  
 15:29:58 Sen. Ellis commented about right to know requests.  
 15:31:18 Rebecca Power  
 15:31:38 Sen. Ellis discussing ombudsman  
 15:32:59 Sen. Mandeville commented on disaster and emergency service.  
 15:34:01 Rebecca Power  
 15:34:45 Presiding Officer Dooling asked about priorities in general.  
 15:35:03 Rebecca Power  
 15:35:26 Rep. Kortum asked about FTE balance from last interim.  
 15:35:45 Sen. Ellis corrected the FTE chart.  
 15:36:28 Rebecca Power  
 15:38:29 Sen. Ellis  
 15:38:40 Sen. McKamey  
 15:39:50 Presiding Officer Dooling asked about creating a subcommittee for Senate Joint 4.  
 15:40:29 Sen. Ellis  
 15:41:28 Presiding Officer Dooling commented on meeting dates.  
 15:41:48 Rebecca Power  
 15:42:18 Amy Carlson, Legislative Fiscal Division, (LFD)  
 15:45:35 Presiding Officer Dooling  
 15:45:47 Amy Carlson  
 15:46:05 Sen. Ellis  
 15:46:12 Sen. McKamey  
 15:47:42 Presiding Officer Dooling  
 15:47:54 Rebecca Power  
 15:48:15 Presiding Officer Dooling  
 15:50:39 Rep. Bertoglio  
 15:51:16 Presiding Officer Dooling

15:51:46 Sen. Cuffe  
15:52:12 Sen. Ellis  
15:53:00 Sen. Mandeville  
15:53:24 Rep. Fitzgerald  
15:55:21 Rep. Kortum

**Public Comment- Work Plan**

15:55:51 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
15:57:14 Carole Mackin, Self

**ADJOURNMENT**

16:00:40 Presiding Officer Dooling adjourned the meeting.