



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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Director
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December 9, 2020

To: Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) Members

From: Quinn Holzer and Amy Carlson

RE: Draft LFC Recommendations to Subcommittees

Statute requires that the LFC adopt certain recommendations for operations of the subcommittees during session.

5-12-205. Powers and duties of committee. The committee: ... (7) shall, before each regular and special legislative session involving budgetary matters, prepare recommendations to the house appropriations committee and the senate finance and claims committee on the application of certain budget issues. At a minimum, the recommendations must include procedures for the consistent application during each session of inflation factors, the allocation of fixed costs, and the personal services budget. The committee may also make recommendations on other issues of major concern in the budgeting process, such as estimating the cost of implementing particular programs based upon present law.

The attached draft captures the previous Legislative Finance Committee recommendations and adds items relevant for the current session. The LFC will need to take action on their recommendations during the December meeting.

New items or language are underlined and include:

- Updated provisions regarding the request to agencies to provide materials three committee days in advance. This provides guidance regarding the electronic submission and use of subcommittee and agency websites.
- Subcommittees may need to consider temporary or permanent impacts to agency budgets as a result of the COVID-19 situation. Many agency operations were directly impacted as a result and could have modified spending patterns in a way not previously considered.

The Legislative Finance Committee may suggest other recommendations for the 2021 Session and take action as desired at the December meeting.