



EDUCATION INTERIM BUDGET COMMITTEE 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
John Fuller
Shane Morigeau
Daniel Salomon

HOUSE MEMBERS

David Bedey
Llew Jones
Connie Keogh
Jonathan Windy Boy

COMMITTEE STAFF

Katy Callon - Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Katie Guenther - Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Alice Hecht - Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Julia Pattin - Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Kathy Sangray - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

December 08, 2022

Room 455

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. David Bedey, Chair (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner, (R)
Rep. John Fuller, (R)
Rep. Llew Jones, (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh, (D)
Sen. Shane Morigeau, (D)
Sen. Dan Salomon, Vice Chair (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy, (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Katy Callon, Fiscal Analyst
Katie Guenther, Fiscal Analyst
Alice Hecht, Fiscal Analyst
Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst
Fong Hom, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:01:07 Rep. David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

08:02:48 Rep. Bedey gave opening remarks.

DEMONSTRATION OF INTERACTIVE TOOLS

08:03:42 Katie Guenther, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

Committee Questions/Discussion

08:11:54 Rep. Bedey asked about the committee binders.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI)

Agency Profiles

08:13:40 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, LFD

2025 Biennium Budget Proposal Highlights

08:19:21 Ms. Pattin (Exhibit 1)

Committee Questions/Discussion

08:23:15 Rep. Bedey discussed the 95 mill levy.

Agency Introduction

08:24:06 Elsie Artzen, State Superintendent, introduced the staff of OPI.

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

Agency Profiles

08:34:37 Alice Hecht, Fiscal Analyst, LFD

2025 Biennium Budget Proposal Highlights

08:35:00 Ms. Hecht (Exhibit 2)

Agency Introduction

08:39:29 Tatiana Gant, Executive Director

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Agency Profiles

08:42:54 Ms. Hecht

2025 Biennium Budget Proposal Highlights

08:44:30 Ms. Hecht (Exhibit 3)

Agency Introduction

08:46:20 Molly Kruckenberg, Director, introduced staff for MHS.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Agency Profiles

08:50:00 Ms. Hecht

2025 Biennium Budget Proposal Highlights

08:52:00 Ms. Hecht (Exhibit 4)

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:00:46 Rep. Bedey discussed the reports created regarding the Board of Public Education (BPE)

Agency Introduction

09:02:55 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, BPE

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:05:46 Sen. Fuller asked about the increase in legal fees.

09:06:51 Sen. Fuller asked about the reason for the lawsuits concerning BPE.

09:07:45 Rep. Bedey requested a history of BPE legal fees brought to future budget committee meetings.

MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND (MSDB)

Agency Profiles

09:09:20 Ms. Hecht provided the agency profiles.

2025 Biennium Budget Proposal Highlights

09:11:10 Ms. Hecht (Exhibit 5)

Agency Introduction

09:16:50 Paul Furthmyre, MSDB Superintendent gave update on MSDB.

Public Comment

09:22:16 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, BPE

BREAK

09:24:50 Reconvened at 9:45

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

Agency Profiles

09:48:15 Katy Callon, Fiscal Analyst, LFD

2025 Biennium Budget Proposal Highlights

09:50:00 Ms. Callon (Exhibit 6)

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:56:39 Rep. Bedey commented on library funding.

Agency Introduction

09:57:12 Jenny Stapp, State Librarian

Committee Questions/Discussion

10:02:42 Sen. Fuller asked Ms. Stapp if the request for increase per capita for distribution was on behalf of the State Library or the tribal libraries.

Public Comment

10:04:41 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association

BREAK

10:05:52 Reconvened at 10:25

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION (OCHE)

Agency Profiles

10:25:50 Ms. Guenther

2025 Biennium Budget Proposal Highlights

10:28:55 Ms. Guenther (Exhibit 7)

Agency Introduction

10:35:30 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Affairs and Public Relations for the Montana University System, introduced OCHE staff.

RELATED AUDITS - Legislative Audit Division

10:39:09 Jessie Curtis, Legislative Audit Division (LAD) (Exhibit 8)

10:41:30 Miki Cestnik, LAD, Information Systems Audit Manager

RELATED INTERIM POLICY COMMITTEE WORK AND BILL REQUESTS

10:44:14 Pad McCracken, Legislative Services Division (LSD) Research Analyst, and Laura Sankey Keip, LSD Attorney, presented SB 1, SB 8, SB 9, SB 10, and two bill drafts.

10:48:03 Rep. Bedey commented on the Education Interim Committee.

FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Economic Impact Statement - OPI

10:50:20 Jay Phillips, CFO, OPI, discussed the HB 206 Report (Exhibit 9)

10:52:38 Mr. Phillips gave a presentation on In-State Treatment Facilities (Exhibit 9)

10:59:16 Julie Murgel, Senior Manager, Quality School Task Force discussed the Economic Impact Statement (Exhibit 10)

Public Comment

11:05:52 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, BPE

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:06:46 Rep. Bedey commented on the purpose of the Economic Impact Statement report.

Report from OCHE

11:10:33 Shauna Lyons, Director of Budget & Planning, Montana University System (MUS) (Exhibit 11)

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:11:09 Rep. Bedey asked which initiatives should continue to be funded.

11:14:37 Rep. Bedey asked about the status of the HiSET program in the Governor's budget.

Update on Class 7 Professional Development Training/Language Revitalization

Workshop

11:15:56 Rep. Bedey gave an update on the Indian Language Preservation Program.

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:19:01 Representative-elect James Bergstrom asked for a description of a Class 7 teaching position.

11:19:34 Ms. Flynn

11:21:17 Ms. Guenther spoke about additional training offered by LFD.

11:21:54 Rep. Bedey reviewed the work done over the interim.

ADJOURNMENT

11:31:50 Rep. Bedey adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.