



EDUCATION INTERIM BUDGET COMMITTEE 67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Shane Morigeau
Daniel Salomon

HOUSE MEMBERS

David Bedey
John Fuller
Llew Jones
Connie Keogh
Jonathan Windy Boy

COMMITTEE STAFF

Katie Guenther - Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Nancy Hall - OBPP Staffer
Kathy Sangray - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

June 15, 2022
Room 172
Helena, Montana

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. David Bedey, Chair (R)
Sen. Daniel Salomon, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. John Fuller (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Katie Guenther, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Nancy Hall, OBPP Staffer
Kathy Sangray, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:33:18 Rep. David Bedey-R called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

Montana State Library

08:34:06 Katy Callon, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) reviewed Montana State Library Quarterly Financial Report.

[EXHIBIT1](#) Montana State Library Quarterly Financial Report

08:45:40 Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian, reviewed 2023 Interim Budget Committee Report, including update on the real-time network, MLIA funding (HB49), and 911 funding (HB 50).

[EXHIBIT2](#) Montana State Library 2023 Interim Budget Committee Report

[EXHIBIT3](#) Montana State Library COVID-Related Funding and Expenditures report

08:54:06 Chair Bedey asked how the subscription-based model for the real time network will be implemented.

08:54:44 Ms. Stapp explained the development process for the network subscription model.

08:55:25 Chair Bedey asked if the model will be self-supporting and that budget requests be prioritized for the upcoming session.

Commissioner of Higher Education

08:56:26 Katie Guenther (LFD) reviewed Quarterly Financial Report for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

[EXHIBIT4](#) Office of Higher Education Quarterly Financial Report

09:06:24 Chair Bedey commented on the report.

09:07:24 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division (LSD), explained further the letter from the Local Government Interim Committee requesting funding.

[EXHIBIT5](#) Memo to IBC-E from Local Government Interim Committee

09:12:41 Rep. Jones questioned if this is a request for a state only contribution, or will the local governments also contribute to the training expenses.

09:15:07 Dan Clark, Local Government Center Director, explained that there is a shortfall with the fee-for-service model for training.

09:16:07 Rep. Jones maintains that 20% of the funding must come from local governments to support the training in partnership with the state.

09:17:13 Chair Bedey observed that this funding should be included in OCHE's executive budget.

09:17:50 Shauna Lyons, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), explained their position on the request for funding and the match.

09:18:40 Chair Bedey asked if this funding increase will be included in their requests in the Governor's budget.

09:18:57 Ms. Lyons stated that it will not be included.

09:19:09 Chair Bedey thanked Ms. Henneman for the information she provided and stated no further action is necessary at this point on the request from the Local Government Committee.

09:20:04 Ms. Lyons reviewed assessment of the HiSET Program and the best strategies moving forward.

09:21:16 Rep. Windy Boy asked if the Tribal College President Consortium has been contacted.

09:21:30 Ms. Lyons has not asked specifically if this process is working or not.

09:21:58 Rep. Windy Boy stated that local input is vital to the success of the HiSET program and OCHE needs to ask for that feedback in the future.

09:23:15 Chair Bedey is encouraged by enrollment numbers in HiSET and encouraged OCHE to reach out to tribal colleges for an assessment of the program and to report back at the September meeting.

09:24:39 Ms. Lyons agreed to provide that information, and she then presented report on the Proficiency-Based Education program.
[EXHIBIT6](#) Proficiency-Based Education report

09:26:32 Rep. Windy Boy asked about proficiency standards on other curriculum.

09:27:07 Ms. Lyons will get that information to Rep. Windy Boy. She then went on with report on Workforce Recovery.
[EXHIBIT7](#) Workforce Recovery Report

09:29:06 Sen. Salomon asked for clarification on timeline of apprenticeships.

09:29:23 Ms. Lyons further explained the timeline.

09:29:43 Chair Bedey commented that these OTO programs serve a narrow focus and location and would like OCHE to explore exporting these programs to reach more Montanans.

09:31:01 Ms. Lyons agreed to discuss exporting these programs. She then reported on AccelerateMT.
[EXHIBIT8](#) AccelerateMT Report

09:32:29 Chair Bedey believes this model is exportable and encouraged further development of the program to provide more opportunities across the state.

09:33:07 Ms. Lyons reported on CyberHub
[EXHIBIT9](#) CyberHub Report

09:34:17 Rep. Jones is encouraged by the progress of these programs as they promote shared policy goals between the committee and OCHE for career and technology education.

09:36:27 Chair Bedey also appreciates the work being done.

09:36:51 Ms. Lyons commented on STEM camps coming up to promote careers in cyber security.

09:37:12 Rep. Windy Boy thanked the Commissioner for efforts to promote shared policy goals including work with Class 7 and linguistics programs.

09:38:13 Chair Bedey would like to see a geographic representation of areas served by programs such as AccelerateMT and CyberHub.

09:38:55 Ms. Lyons commented that they have reviewed accessibility of specific programs and they are working on how to get course offerings out seamlessly to students.

09:39:20 Chair Bedey introduced topic of Community College Funding Formula.

09:40:01 Katie Guenther (LFD) explained factors in the funding formula for the 2025 biennium.
[EXHIBIT10](#) Memo to IBC-E from Katie Guenther regarding Community College funding formula factors

09:48:31 Ms. Lyons explained data on Community Colleges regarding budget proposals.

09:50:12 Jane Karas, President of Flathead Valley Community College, commented on proposed formula factors and rationale for increase or decrease in funding factors.
[EXHIBIT11](#) Memo to IBC-E from Community College Presidents regarding Community College funding formula

09:54:25 Kathleen O'Leary, Interim President of Dawson Community College, introduced incoming President, Justin Bilmer.

09:55:17 President Bilmer summarized his background and vision going forward.

09:56:20 Ms. O'Leary agreed that providing access across the state is important and community colleges are positioned to continue meeting those needs.

09:56:56 Rep. Jones explained his agreement and disagreement regarding community college funding and proposed different FTE weight factors for General Education and Dual Credit-High School.

10:01:21 Chair Bedey expressed need to present numbers that will be acceptable to the Executive budget. He agreed with Rep. Jones' assessment and recommendations for the FTW weight factors.

10:03:27 Rep. Windy Boy asked if there will be a committee bill on this item for next session.

10:03:37 Chair Bedey explained the funding bill from last session and how the committee will respond to the Executive budget regarding funding formulas and parameters.

10:04:35 Rep. Windy Boy appreciates efforts of community colleges to provide dual credits and encourages support of these programs to assist students.

10:05:44 Rep. Keogh asked for input from colleges on Rep. Jones' proposal to reduce the FTE weight factors.

10:06:28 Ms. Karas explained reasoning behind recommendations for the FTW weight factors for General Education (GE) and Dual Enrollment - High School (DE-HS). She agreed that a GE factor of one (1) is acceptable but disagreed with Rep. Jones' proposal to reduce the factor for DE-HS to .75.

10:09:33 Ms. O'Leary explained importance of introducing dual enrollment courses in the high schools and the work done by the community college to provide those opportunities which are a loss-leader for the college. She also disagreed with Rep. Jones' proposal to reduce the DE-HS factor.

10:12:15 Ron Slinger, President of Miles Community College, is grateful for the increased factor for CTE and the FTE funding changes. He agreed with having GE factor be at 1, but also disagreed with Rep. Jones' proposal for the DE-HS factor to be .75.

- 10:15:00 Rep. Jones asked to further explore if DE - HS is a loss-leader. He then asked what the stipend is for a high school teacher for Dual Enrollment and how many students are taught.
- 10:15:40 Ms. Karas explained their contracts with the various high schools in their service area and will provide specifics to the committee. She also explained the impact of college-credit-only and high-school-credit courses.
- 10:17:39 Rep. Jones asked for more information on what high school teachers are paid and the documentation to show that DE - HS is a loss-leader for colleges.
- 10:20:38 Chair Bedey proposed establishment of parameters as proposed by Rep. Jones and asked that the community colleges work with OCHE to compile consistent data on the expenses of dual enrollment.
- 10:22:40 Rep. Keogh needs more information before agreeing to the proposed factors.
- 10:23:10 Chair Bedey explained that the committee needs to make a decision today so that there is a starting place to prepare the budget.
- 10:23:45 Rep. Jones asked for clarification on the budget process and timeline.
- 10:24:32 Ms. Lyons explained process for submitting data due September 1st for the Governor's budget.
- 10:25:11 Rep. Windy Boy needs more information and asked if the colleges can provide their data to the committee before September.
- 10:25:58 Chair Bedey stated that he will not call another meeting of the committee prior to September and is wanting the committee to approve the proposed parameters so that a budget can be prepared. Section E will revisit all this during the session once all the data is provided by the colleges.
- 10:26:58 Rep. Windy Boy asked to be kept posted on updates of information.
- 10:27:37 Chair Bedey moved without objection that Rep. Jones' proposed parameters be communicated to OCHE for inclusion in their submission to the Governor.

Public Comment

- 10:28:00 None
- 10:28:36 Break

Montana Historical Society

- 10:38:55 Alice Hecht (LFD) reviewed Quarterly Financial Report.
[EXHIBIT12](#) Montana Historical Society Quarterly Financial Report

Montana Arts Council

- 10:51:29 Ms. Hecht reviewed Quarterly Financial Report.
[EXHIBIT13](#) Montana Arts Council Quarterly Financial Report
- 10:57:48 Chair Bedey asked about the ARPA funding.
- 10:58:02 Tatiana Gant, Montana Arts Council, said they voted to approve the grant recommendations and fully expended the funds. She will be seeking more funding for other qualified applicants.
- 10:59:31 Rep. Windy Boy asked if there is a reporting mechanism the state uses to account for federal funding to the state for services and if local governments are notified about this funding and services being provided.

- 11:02:52 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Gant to respond to the question regarding the Montana Arts Council.
- 11:03:17 Ms. Gant explained they are in full compliance with reporting requirements and those reports are available to the public for review.
- 11:05:21 Chair Bedey encouraged Rep. Windy Boy to reach out to Ms. Gant for more information.
- 11:05:50 Rep. Windy Boy expressed concern that federal funds for services need to be used appropriately.

Board of Public Education

- 11:06:47 Ms. Hecht reviewed the Quarterly Financial Report.
[EXHIBIT14](#) Board of Public Education Quarterly Financial Report.

- 11:13:13 Rep. Keogh asked why the revenue stream has decreased.
- 11:13:44 Ms. Hecht reviewed memo regarding Educator License Fee Options for Board of Public Education.
[EXHIBIT15](#) Memo to IBC-E from Alice Hecht regarding educator license fees options for BPE.

- 11:23:27 Chair Bedey asked the committee to review reports on how other states handle fees. He also clarified fees and terminology and directed discussion to include where revenue should go, if it covers the costs associated with licensing, and if the committee would like to put forward a committee bill to address these issues.
- 11:28:28 Jay Phillips, CFO, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), explained Licensure Program fees.
EXHIBIT16 OPI Licensure Program

- 11:32:23 Chair Bedey asked if OPI will be requesting additional funding for licensing program costs not covered by the fees.
- 11:32:46 Mr. Phillips explained that the shortfall can be absorbed in the current budget without requesting additional funding.
- 11:33:00 Chair Bedey asked what year OPI would be incurring the entirety of the operating costs after ARPA funds are spent.
- 11:33:19 Mr. Phillips explained that they have three years budgeted with ARPA money which goes through fiscal year 2025.
- 11:33:31 Chair Bedey asked what the increase in the budget is for the licensure program.
- 11:34:01 Mr. Phillips explained that the previous budget did not include the \$200,000 for TeachMT maintenance.
- 11:34:14 Chair Bedey asked if the \$200,000 additional expense provides for regular, sustained maintenance of the licensure program which we did not have before.
- 11:34:38 Mr. Phillips explained that the maintenance cost covers technology and platform upgrades, and other system issues.
- 11:35:10 Nancy Hall, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP), pointed out that OPI absorbed the cost of maintenance for the old system in the current budget, and that the contract for maintenance on the new system was agreed to without having funding in place.

11:35:36 Mr. Phillips said they projected use of ARPA funds to cover the maintenance costs, but after that they would need legislative appropriations to cover those costs if teacher license fees are not directed to OPI.

11:35:52 Ms. Hall asked for clarification on the portion of operating costs OPI can absorb in their current budget.

11:36:00 Mr. Phillips explained that they are short \$40,000 from license fees to cover the \$200,000 cost for maintenance.

11:36:22 Rep. Windy Boy asked if the current license fees cover the operating costs of the program.

11:36:56 Mr. Phillips said the license fees do not go to OPI and the request presented by Ms. Hecht for increased fees would go to cover costs at the Board of Public Education.

11:37:10 Rep. Keogh asked if the program required four FTEs prior to the new system.

11:37:30 Mr. Phillips said three FTEs handled the old system and they just hired a fourth this fiscal year.

11:37:49 Rep. Keogh questioned why the new upgraded system needs one more person to administer it.

11:38:07 Crystal Andrews, Director of Educator Licensure, OPI, explained that one FTE was brought on to assist with the increased workload created by the transition from the old system to the new, and once the system is up and running smoothly, they do not anticipate needing that fourth FTE.

11:39:41 Ms. Hall asked about the extra FTE and the availability of the ARPA funds.

11:39:55 Mr. Phillips said they have until September 2024 to obligate ARPA funds.

11:40:05 Ms. Hall asked if the extra FTE will be needed in the next biennium.

11:40:16 Mr. Phillips agreed that they will not need four FTEs once the system is up and running and the backlog is fully addressed and that one of the FTEs expected to retire in 2025 will not be replaced.

11:40:31 Chair Bedey commented on the new system.

11:41:56 Rep. Windy Boy asked where the teacher license fees are currently going.

11:42:36 Mr. Phillips said if the MCA is amended then the license fees would go toward offsetting the costs of the license system.

11:42:40 Chair Bedey asked BPE to comment on the redirecting of state special revenue.

11:43:10 McCall Flynn, Director of Board of Public Education (BPE) explained the timing of the revenue stream from fees and commented on Ms. Hecht's proposal to the committee. She believes the proposal to redirect license fees could be problematic because BPE relies on those fees.

11:44:45 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Flynn if she opposes OPI's proposal.

11:44:52 Ms. Flynn said she does not oppose the proposal but explained the role and goals of the BPE that need to be funded and she is willing to work with OPI to come to a consensus.

11:45:49 Ms. Hall said for the BPE to be funded with General Funds there would need to be a change in statute.

11:46:20 Chair Bedey summarized the discussion on license fees, funding for statutory activities of the BPE, OPI's bill proposal, and the possibility of a committee bill to address BPE audit issues. He further discussed fees and that the Superintendent's opposition to increasing license fees would mean increased funding required through appropriation of income tax revenues.

Public Comment

- 11:49:25 None
- 11:50:08 Chair Bedey discussed the accreditation standards bill draft.
[EXHIBIT17](#) Unofficial Draft Copy of bill regarding process for adoption of school accreditation standards.
- 11:52:30 Ms. Flynn commented on bill draft and expressed specific concerns.
- 11:54:12 Chair Bedey commented on the relationship between OPI and BPE.
- 11:55:24 Ms. Flynn elaborated on her concerns.
- 11:56:00 Chair Bedey wrapped up the discussion on the bill draft.

Public Comment

- 11:56:52 None
- 11:56:57 Lunch

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

- 13:04:08 Ms. Hecht reviewed Quarterly Financial Report.
[EXHIBIT18](#) Montana School for the Deaf and Blind Quarterly Financial Report
- 13:11:11 Paul Furthmyre, Director Montana School of the Deaf and Blind, commented on updates.

Office of Public Instruction

- 13:14:11 Rep. Windy Boy gave presentation on Class 7 Professional Development Training.
[EXHIBIT19](#) MILP Powerpoint Presentation
- 14:03:43 Chair Bedey commented on the presentation and Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP) Program.
- 14:05:20 Rep. Windy Boy commented on the importance of local control.
- 14:06:38 Chair Bedey agreed that Class 7 Instructors are an important component of MILP along with local control and the availability of curriculum.
- 14:09:47 Rep. Windy Boy agreed with Chair Bedey and commented on the conferences held on MILP over the past year.
- 14:11:43 Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent OPI, thanked Rep. Windy Boy for his work on MILP and commented on the MILP conference she attended.
- 14:12:56 Donny Wetzel (OPI) reviewed the MILP Timeline and the importance of Class 7 language instructors.
[EXHIBIT20](#) MILP Timeline
- 14:15:55 Matthew Bell, Language and Culture Specialist OPI, commented on his work with the language grants and developing relationships with the tribes.
- 14:16:58 Rep. Windy Boy asked if the reporting is in compliance with requirements.

14:17:59 Mr. Wetzel explained he does not have all the reports and some of what he has is not in compliance in certain places. He is in communication with those at the local level and is offering assistance to get that information to OPI.

14:19:09 Rep. Windy Boy expressed his concern that the number of native language speakers is dwindling, and he offered his support of efforts to move the MILP forward.

14:21:36 Mr. Bell said that language immersion summer camps are moving forward this year after being on hold due to COVID.

14:22:19 Mr. Wetzel expressed interest in developing relationships with the local tribes and providing them support and training to overcome the obstacles of implementing the program.

14:23:09 Chair Bedey pointed out that support of Class 7 Instructors is the key to developing MILP and funding should be tied to Class 7 Instructor professional development and curriculum development.

14:24:55 Rep. Windy Boy agrees that efforts to support Class 7 Instructors to develop curriculum is a vital component of the MILP program.

14:26:41 Superintendent Arntzen introduced presentation on MILP budget.

14:27:36 Mr. Phillips (OPI) reviewed the Montana Indian Language Preservation Program budget.
[EXHIBIT21](#) MILP Program Budget

14:29:41 Chair Bedey asked OPI to report back to the committee what portion of the budget actually flows to the schools to support instructional activities.

14:30:17 Julia Pattin (LFD) reviewed Quarterly Financial Report.
[EXHIBIT22](#) Office of Public Instruction Quarterly Financial Report

14:42:47 Superintendent Arntzen introduced OPI CIO Chris Sinrud.

14:43:22 Mr. Phillips reviewed ESSER Funds budget.
[EXHIBIT23](#) ESSER Funds Budget

14:50:19 Sen. Salomon asked about status of data modernization project.

14:50:45 Chair Bedey asked for report of schedule of modules for the data modernization project.

14:51:20 Mr. Phillips summarized projects in the works.

14:52:23 Rep. Windy Boy asked for clarification on budget.

14:52:50 Mr. Phillips explained fund allocation.

14:53:36 Rep. Windy Boy asked if the 10% referred to equals \$38 million and if he can get a copy of the federal report submitted.

14:54:07 Mr. Phillips will make those reports available.

14:54:23 Rep. Windy Boy asked if the use of these funds is at the discretion of the department at the local level.

14:55:00 Mr. Phillips clarified funding allocations.

14:56:55 Chair Bedey explained the source and allocation of the funding.

14:57:27 Rep. Windy Boy asked what allocation flexibility there is with funding and what local input is considered.

14:58:27 Mr. Phillips explained that tribes did receive funds as well.

14:58:58 Rep. Windy Boy asked for a report on the funding allocated.

14:59:16 Rep. Keogh asked if the information is on the ARPA website.

14:59:36 Mr. Phillips said you can review ESSER funding and allocation to schools on the OPI website but how those schools are using the money would be a separate report.

15:00:01 Rep. Windy Boy questioned the definition of homelessness.

15:01:40 Mr. Phillips clarified and then deferred the question to the next presenters.

15:02:18 Jack O'Connor (OPI) explained definition of homelessness and explained expenditures of ARPA funds.

15:08:02 Serena Wright, State Homelessness Coordinator OPI, explained distribution of ARPA funds for homeless students.

15:16:09 Rep. Windy Boy asked who administers grants for homelessness.

15:16:37 Ms. Wright clarified how they identify homeless students.

15:17:24 Rep. Windy Boy asked if unsupervised students are considered homeless.

15:17:54 Ms. Wright explained that they would not be considered homeless for purposes of this funding.

15:18:25 Rep. Windy Boy asked if students that stay for short periods in various homes are considered homeless by the definition for the funding.

15:19:00 Ms. Wright said it is difficult to identify homeless students and that is why counselors, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc. are needed to help identify homeless students.

15:19:52 Mr. O'Connor noted that Montana was recognized by the US Department of Education as the first state to allocate funds to school districts.

15:20:19 Rep. Keogh thanked Ms. Wright and Mr. O'Connor and commented on the importance of counselors in the schools.

15:21:17 Mr. Phillips introduced Nicole Thuotte (OPI) and recognized her work. He then reviewed budget on In-State Facilities.
[EXHIBIT24](#) In-State Facilities

15:28:52 Chair Bedey observed that it is important to distinguish between costs of education and treatment when looking at daily rates of education costs.

15:30:00 Mr. Phillips is working with treatment facilities to distinguish those different costs.

15:30:41 Chair Bedey asked if those providing the education are satisfied with the state reimbursements.

15:31:23 Mr. Phillips deferred to Ms. Thuotte.

15:31:35 Nicole Thuotte (OPI) confirmed that the educators referred to are providing education and not treatment. Also, OPI has not gotten any feedback or complaints from facilities regarding rates the state is paying or district of residence.

15:32:59 Mr. Phillips pointed out one concern of the districts regarding the timing of the funding.

15:33:33 Chair Bedey confirmed the legislative intent of the bill and then introduced the next topic on absorption factor for K-12 enrollment increases.

15:35:24 Pad McCracken (LSD) explained draft of bill related to enrollment increases.
[EXHIBIT25](#) Unofficial Draft of Bill regarding revising school funding laws related to enrollment increases.

15:39:05 Paul Taylor (OPI) explained why a district may not accept funding.

15:40:18 Chair Bedey commented on absorption factor and formula approach and would like to bring bill draft forward at meeting in September.

15:43:26 Mr. Taylor explained PD0029 Lookback Analysis FY2014-FY2023
EXHIBIT26 PD0029 Lookback Analysis FY2014-FY2023

15:48:42 Chair Bedey commented on the amount per pupil and the absorption factor and wants the committee to discuss sending this committee bill to the LFC in September.

15:50:39 Sen. Salomon asked if this formula will take the guess work out of allocations to districts.

15:51:22 Mr. Taylor explained the bill draft and timeline and how OPI will be able to help districts get available funds.

15:52:36 Sen. Salomon asked if OPI can easily accomplish this.

15:52:47 Mr. Taylor said that HB 630 determined a calculation to increase the base and because of the necessity to create the calculation it is possible for OPI to accomplish this.

15:53:22 Chair Bedey asked if K-12 base aid appropriations includes an allowance for unanticipated enrollment.

15:53:47 Mr. Taylor said there has always been an indirect buffer in anticipation for enrollment increases.

15:54:13 Nancy Hall, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) explained how the calculations were made.

15:54:59 Chair Bedey stated there has always been a consideration in budgeting for anticipated and unanticipated enrollment and this is not unusual to make allowances.

15:55:09 Ms. Hall explained they did have to come up with an additional \$5.3 million base aid for enrollment adjustments.

15:55:31 Chair Bedey commented on the uncertainty of the number of students returning to the schools.

15:55:45 Ms. Hall further explained that even with exceptions made for the uncertainty, they still had to come up with additional \$5.3 million base aid.

15:56:03 Chair Bedey thanked Mr. McCracken and Mr. Taylor for their work and asked Ms. Hall about the capacity for absorption.

15:56:47 Ms. Hall commented on the calculations and said it would be better to make the formula less complicated.

15:57:31 Chair Bedey said the committee will consider this bill draft in September.

Executive Planning Process

15:58:02 Ms. Hall handed out Agency Summary by Priority reports and is available to answer any questions.
EXHIBIT27 EPP Agency Summary by Priority reports

15:58:28 Chair Bedey stated this is the first time biennium interim committees can review the EPP process and he is confident this will help Section E during the session.

15:59:20 Ms. Hall did not have anything to add on the EPPs since they just came out. She will review them and question the agencies and then the Governor's office will be reviewing these budgets.

16:00:34 Chair Bedey asked where OBPP will be by September in this review process.

- 16:00:41 Ms. Hall will give the EPPs (that include agency requests outside the ordinary budget) back to the agencies by August 1st. The agencies will then give the EPPs and their entire budget back to OPBB by September 1st. The Governor then has from September 1st to November 15th to prepare the Governor's budget.
- 16:02:09 Chair Bedey asked if Ms. Hall would recommend that the committee keep these EPP reports for the September meeting.
- 16:02:25 Ms. Hall said that by comparing the reports the committee will see what was requested and what was rejected.
- 16:02:40 Chair Bedey thanked Ms. Hall for the reports.
- 16:02:58 Ms. Hall said most the EPP requests will be new proposals and elaborated on the EPP reports.
- 16:03:50 Rep. Keogh asked about approved and pending status on various agency reports.
- 16:04:19 Ms. Hall said that is an error where it says "approved" and that all EPP requests should be in pending status at this point. She further explained the versions of the EPP budgets and that OBPP and the agencies can not see the budget in the system when the other entity is working on it.

Committee Discussion

- 16:06:38 Chair Bedey discussed the workplan until the September meeting.
- 16:10:10 Sen. Salomon moved bill draft PD 0023 regarding accreditation standards be passed out of committee so the LFC can review it at their meeting tomorrow. The bill passed out of committee unanimously.
- 16:10:44 Ms. Hall clarified that the order of EPP requests on each report is prioritized by the agency.
- 16:11:09 Chair Bedey thanked the committee, staffers and agencies for a productive meeting.

Public Comment

- 16:12:01 Mike Waterman, Bozeman School District, thanked Mr. Taylor and Mr. McCracken for their work on the enrollment increase mechanism. He looks forward to working with them to tighten up the language in the bill but feels it is headed in the right direction.
- 16:13:03 Chair Bedey announced the next meeting will be September 14th and a joint meeting with EIC will be on September 13th.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:14:15