



Interim Budget Committee – Section A 67th Montana Legislature

Room 455 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

SENATE MEMBERS

FORREST MANDEVILLE – VICE CHAIR
DAN BARTEL
PAT FLOWERS

HOUSE MEMBERS

TERRY MOORE – CHAIR
TERRY FALK
JIM HAMILTON
NAARAH HASTINGS

COMMITTEE STAFF

MOLLY DELCURTO, Fiscal Analyst
KATIE GUENTHER, Fiscal Analyst
JOE BAAN, Fiscal Analyst

June 20, 2024
Room
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. Terry Moore, Chair (R)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Molly DelCurto, Fiscal Analyst
Katie Guenther, Fiscal Analyst
Joe Baan, Fiscal Analyst

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:32:08 Rep. Terry Moore called the meeting to order. Staff took roll.

Legislative Branch

08:34:14 Katie Guenther, Fiscal Analyst with the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), presented Legislative Branch quarterly financial report

08:45:55 Rep Hamilton referenced the two vacancy reports that separated the HB2 and general fund positions and asked for an explanation of discrepancy between overall vacancy reports

08:47:20 Kelly DaSilva, Human Resources manager with Legislative Services Division (LSD), responded

08:49:48 Rep Falk asked about the transfer of funds and whether it was budget authority or actual funds

08:51:07 Kelly DaSilva, Human Resources LSD, provided FTE update

08:52:34 Dale Gow, Chief Information Officer (CIO) with the Legislative Branch, provided update on major projects

08:55:09 Sen Flowers asked which rooms in the capital building had been outfitted with the wireless microphones

09:03:10 Sen Flowers asked what the contingency plan for voting is if called into special session before mid-October

09:05:50 Rep Falk

09:07:52 Jerry Howe, LSD, presented agency goals and objectives

09:19:58 Rep Hamilton requested a metric for measuring completion status of goals and objectives

09:23:40 Amy Carlson, LFD, presented agency goals and objectives

09:34:48 Rep Hamilton requested a way to quantify progress of goals

09:36:39 Angus Maciver, Legislative Audit Division (LAD), presented agency goals and objectives

Governor's Office

09:47:10 Katie Guenther, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented Governor's Office quarterly financial report

09:58:43 Rep Falk requested clarification on empty authority

- 10:05:02 Amy Sassano, Deputy Budget Director, presented agency goals and objectives
- 10:22:29 Sen Flowers suggested providing a staff directory for users
- 10:24:02 Rep Hamilton asked if there was any indication the number of applications the agency might see who will apply for the funds set aside within HB819
- 10:26:14 Mandy Rambo, Deputy Director of Department of Commerce, responded
- 10:26:52 Rep Hamilton asked about the project in Deer Lodge

Break

- 10:27:40 Reconvene at 104147

Department of Commerce

- 09:46:25 Molly DelCurto, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented Department of Commerce quarterly financial report
- 10:48:35 Sen Flowers requested clarification on multi-year contracts, accrual funds and accounting habits
- 10:49:26 Mandy Rambo responded
- 10:50:34 Molly DelCurto continued presentation
- 10:54:26 Rep Falk asked about FTE and utilization
- 10:56:59 Mandy Rambo responded
- 11:00:15 Rep Falk requested clarification on debt services expenditure
- 11:00:51 Angie Nelson responded
- 11:01:44 Rep Hamilton requested clarification on discrepancy between FTE vacancies within report
- 11:04:08 Paul Green, Director of Department of Commerce,
- 11:06:02 Mandy Rambo presented annual plan updates
- 11:16:14 Rep Hamilton asked what other departments are doing that would aid in the filling of vacancies
- 11:18:53 Rep Falk asked about older or expiring programs
- 11:19:20 Mandy Rambo presented MERA MT emergency rental assistance program
- 11:21:02 Ethan Bergen presented Section A Budget overview
- 11:31:24 Rep Hamilton
- 11:32:10 Katie Guenther
- 11:37:36 Rep Moore asked about the nonbudgeted expenditures and how those are accumulated

Lunch

- 11:42:49 Reconvene at 130137

Legislative Audit Division Update

- 13:02:00 Julia Connelly, LAD, presented department update

- 13:04:47 Rep Moore asked if the number of performance audits is similar to what has been provided in the past
- 13:06:57 Rep Hamilton referenced audit recommendation for Board of Housing about data metrics and asked what was missing, what can legislators do to assist in providing that
- 13:08:07 Sen Flowers

Introduction of New Lottery Director

- 13:09:13 Bob Brown, Lottery Director, introduced himself and presented goals and objectives
- 13:22:11 Rep Hamilton asked about length of year being reported and sports betting

Department of Military Affairs

- 13:28:33 Ethan Bergen presented Department of Military Affairs (DMA) quarterly financial affairs
- 13:42:40 Major General J Peter Hronek, United States Army
- 13:53:44 Sen Flowers asked about budget amendments
- 13:54:43 Janae Grotbo, CFO Department of Military Affairs
- 13:57:27 Rep Hamilton requested more details about the southwestern borer deployment in terms of manpower, length of time and job responsibilities, vacancies
- 14:05:41 Ethan Bergen, Fiscal analyst LFD, presented DMA Scholarship Program
- 14:12:27 Sen Flowers asked if there was a limit on the amount of tuition the university system is willing to waive
- 14:14:16 Janae Grotbo responded
- 14:18:39 Ethan Bergen, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented DMA Contracted Services
- 14:28:37 Rep Hamilton requested clarification in discrepancy between contract values within narrative and within chart
- 14:31:22 Rep Moore asked for further explanation or definition of what contract value means
- 14:22:58 Ricky Dorvall
- 14:39:29 Kelly Ackerman, DMA Veteran's Affairs Division
- 14:44:40 Rep Hamilton asked why only half of Montana veterans were enrolled in the VA, how many veterans already in enrolled are of retirement age

Personal Services Contingency Funding Education

- 14:52:31 Molly DelCurto, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented Personal Services Contingency funding education
- 14:54:04 Rep Hamilton asked how the data was computed

- 14:54:38 Rep Moore asked how contingency funding shows up in the modified budget and what happens to the remaining if not expended
- 14:56:04 Rep Hamilton asked what happens to the leftover money at the end of the biennium
- 14:56:58 Rep Falk asked how the dollar amount gets negotiated in Hb13

SITSD Report

- 14:58:30 Kevin Gilbertson, State Chief Information Officer, provided update
- 15:10:30 Rep Moore asked about FTE vacancies and if current funding is sufficient
- 15:15:46 Rep Hamilton

Personal Services

- 15:19:09 Molly DeCurto, Fiscal Analyst LFD, provided personal service overview for Section A
- 15:21:38 Rep Hamilton asked how Section A compares to other agencies and their vacancies
- 15:25:23 Rep Falk requested clarification of differences between current report and overall report, difference between hours worked and hours available, long-term vacancies

Committee Organization for Next Meeting

- 15:31:48 Rep Moore started discussion on next meeting agenda items
- 15:32:19 Rep Hamilton discussed communication between agencies and payments on contracts

ADJOURNMENT:

- 15:39:07 Rep. Terry Moore adjourned the meeting.