



Public Safety Interim Budget Committee
68th Montana Legislature

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SENATE MEMBERS

SHELLEY VANCE
TOM MCGILVRAY, VICE-CHAIR
RYAN LYNCH

HOUSE MEMBERS

EMMA KERR-CARPENTER
BILL MERCER, CHAIR
FIONA NAVE
MICHELLE BINKLEY

JULIE JOHNSON, Staff Attorney
WALKER HOPKINS, Fiscal Analyst
BRENT DOIG, OBPP Analyst
QUINN HOLZER, Assistant Director

March 13, 2024
Room 350
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:

Sen. Tom McGillvray, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Bill Mercer, Chair (R)
Rep. Michelle Binkley (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst
Kate Flavin, Fiscal Analyst
Jenn Whitt, Secretary
Brent Doig, OBPP Staff

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

Call to Order/Roll Call

08:01:12 Sen Tom McGillvray called meeting to order. Secretary took roll.

Legislative Audit Division Updates:

- 08:02:38 Alyssa Sorenson, Senior Management and Program Analyst, Legislative Audit Division (LAD), provided updates and audit discussion
- 08:06:14 Sen Tom McGillvray requested Committee D be updated after audits; asked what mandate is set in place to look for efficiencies during audit
- 08:08:14 Rep Fiona Nave requested that the reason or the memo for conducting the audit is included in audit presentation to track requests vs required

Judicial Branch:

- 08:09:53 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented Department of Justice (DOJ) quarterly financial report. Answered questions on carryforward definition, authority, and utilization.
- 08:19:04 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst LFD, reviewed HB2 appropriate authority for ARPA
- 08:30:40 Kate Flavin, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented Judicial Branch quarterly financial report
- 08:37:47 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented Office of State Public Defender quarterly financial report
- 08:45:44 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented the Department of Corrections quarterly financial report
- 08:52:58 Fate Flavin, Fiscal Analyst LFD, presented Public Service Commission quarterly financial report
- 08:55:25 Rep Emma Kerr-Carpenter asked if the trend in the graph would be aligned if the previous year's increase were not considered
- 08:59:28 Beth McLaughlin, Supreme Court Administrator, reviewed case load and annual statistics. Answered questions on demographics of crimes and efficiency of negative data points within presentation
- 09:20:32 Sen Tom McGillvray requested clarification on how violations are classified between municipal, district and justice courts
- 09:22:57 Beth McLaughlin, Supreme Court Administrator, presented documentation on treatment courts
- 09:26:49 Rep Fiona Nave requested clarification of co-occurring courts
- 09:33:34 Beth McLaughlin, Supreme Court Administrator, presented drug CT data review
- 09:42:06 Sen Tom McGillvray asked where ARPA funding is being spent on or allocated

BREAK:

09:44:20 Reconvened at 09:56:35

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

09:56:55 Will Selph, Chief of Staff to the Department of Justice (DOJ), reviewed annual plan documents

10:04:25 Sen Tom McGillvray asked why Butte and Miles City for regional centers

10:07:54 Sen Tom McGillvray requested clarification how department plans to implement perform measures for Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI)

10:10:23 Rep Fiona Nave requests proposed numbers or trends for DCI

10:12:41 Sen Tom McGillvray asked where the focus is for increasing education for DCI

10:15:51 Will Selph, Chief of Staff DOJ, presented Forensic Science Division (FSD), Gambling Control Division(GCD), Montana Highway Patrol(MHP), and Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) within annual plan

10:26:16 Rep Emma Kerr-Carpenter asked why spending is ahead of trend

10:29:09 Will Selph, Chief of Staff DOJ, continues presentation with Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) and State Attorney's Office (SAO)

10:31:45 Rep Emma Kerr-Carpenter requested performance measures for SAO, need hours tracked or a time keeping tracker in place

10:33:10 Sen Tom McGillvray requested a report compiled on cost saving and efficiency steps

10:36:26 Rep Emma Kerr-Carpenter requested costs of contractors

10:37:53 Brian Lockerby, Administrator for DCI, presented internet crimes against children, computer, and internet crimes

10:42:00 Sen Tom McGillvray mentioned university group creating software algorithm to crack passwords quicker

10:43:42 Andrew Yedinak, Supervisory Agent in Charge of Human Trafficking for DCI, presented human trafficking data. Answered questions on definition of labor trafficking and if current laws can allow for successful prosecution of labor traffickers

10:57:08 Rep Emma Kerr-Carpenter asked how interacting with victims has been affected by federal rhetoric

11:00:31 Sen Tom McGillvray asked what the average number of victims per labor trafficker is, what tips or leads they receive, what is the difference between federal and state cases

11:04:52 Laurie Bakri, Administrator for Motor Vehicle Division, gave update on CARS Project. Answered questions relating to online transactions and ease of new system

11:15:58 Dan Guzynski, Prosecutions Bureau Chief SAO, addressed earlier comments and concerns regarding case turnover

- 11:31:46 Will Selph, Chief of Staff DOJ, provided SAO Update. Answered questions regarding ARPA funds as well as HB163 and HB18 implementation.
- 11:44:21 Natalia Bowser, Executive Director of the Board of Crime Control and Victim Services, provided funding update

LUNCH:

- 11:57:24 Reconvened at 12:59:52

OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER:

- 13:00:09 Bret Schandelson, Director of the Office of State Public Defender, answered follow-up questions from December Section D meeting. Discussion on percent of new cases, percent of contracted work. Committee discussed reviewing statutes about jail time for nonviolent misdemeanors.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 13:54:18 Ben Halverson, Domestic Violence Deputy City Attorney, provided comment on stability within prosecution and court system in Billings

BREAK:

- 13:57:44 Reconvened at 14:14:27

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

- 14:14:37 Brian Gootkin, Director of Montana Department of Corrections, provided update on HB5. Answered questions about future building capabilities and staffing
- 15:03:31 Scott Eychner, Chief Executive Officer of Rehabilitation and Programs Division, Montana Department of Corrections, continued update on contract placement bureau operations
- 15:07:38 John Daugherty, Chief Executive Officer of Central Services Division, Montana Department of Corrections, answered questions on data dashboards on community distribution
- 15:09:46 Brian Gootkin, Scott Eychner, and John Daugherty answered questions from committee regarding Pardon and Parole tracking, staffing and capacity of facilities
- 15:15:53 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director of Montana Department of Corrections, answered questions about facility and equipment upgrades.
- 15:18:50 Rep Fiona Nave requested more data on cause of death statistics
- 15:25:11 Committee discussion on parole process and efficiency

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 15:32:43 Alan Scanlon, Executive Director of Great Falls Pre-Release Center, provided comments on expansion project, answered questions about current construction projects and invited committee for tour of facility

BREAK:

15:36:23 Reconvened at 15:46:06

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

- 15:46:25 Jennifer Fielder, Vice President of Public Service Commission (PSC) provided update on PSC vacancies and budget and annual plan. Answered questions about long term outages and infrastructure protections
- 16:08:52 Sen Tom McGillvray requested follow up conversation on preparedness of communities
- 16:12:09 Rep Emma Kerr-Carpenter inquired about technological capabilities and abilities to expand current proficiencies
- 16:14:05 Sen Tom McGillvray requested more information on attack probability versus risk

PUBLIC COMMENT:

16:18:56 None

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

16:19:35 Walker Hopkins, Fiscal Analyst LFD, summarized requests and responses needed of Departments and deadline of May. Reminded committee of next meeting in June.

ADJOURNMENT:

16:22:10 Sen Tom McGillvray adjourned the meeting.