



EDUCATION INTERIM BUDGET COMMITTEE 68th 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

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

September 14, 2022
Room 172
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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the (Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the (Exhibit of interest. All (Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

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)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. John Fuller (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

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

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 2)

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- 08:31:09 Rep. David Bedey-R called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The committee secretary took roll.
- 08:32:04 Chair Bedey introduced Ben Turnes, Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP).

COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- 08:38:26 Katie Guenther, Lead Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), presented the Quarterly Financial Report. (Exhibit 1)
- 08:39:01 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

HiSET, Proficiency Based Education, Accelerate Montana, Workforce Recovery, and CyberHub Update

- 08:43:58 Shauna Lyons, Montana University System Director of Accounting and Budget, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), presented updates and budget submissions.

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 08:47:04 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Lyons for completion data on HiSET and if OCHE anticipates proposing ongoing funding.
- 08:51:18 Rep. Keogh asked Ms. Lyons about participation trends in the Proficiency Based Education program.
- 08:51:50 Rep. Windy Boy asked Ms. Lyons about improvements in proficiency standards.
- 08:52:40 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Lyons about the reach and effectiveness of the proficiency-based approach.
- 08:53:43 Rep. Windy Boy suggested aligning proficiency standards with those of the language immersion program.
- 08:55:11 Chair Bedey commented on proficiency standards for language immersion.
- 08:55:37 Rep. Keogh requested feedback from Ms. Lyons on other options for promoting proficiency standards.
- 08:59:42 Chair Bedey commented on Accelerate Montana, Workforce Recovery, and CyberHub.
- 09:07:16 Sen. Morigeau commented on CyberHub.
- 09:08:04 Chair Bedey made recommendations for CyberHub and asked Ms. Lyons for any budget proposals.
- 09:10:21 Rep. Windy Boy asked Ms. Lyons about dual credit transfers.
- 09:11:00 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Lyons and Nancy Hall, Lead Budget Analyst, OBPP, about the impact of wage inflation.

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

- 09:14:08 Katy Callon, Fiscal Analyst, LFD, presented the Quarterly Financial Report. (Exhibit 2)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 09:26:51 Rep. Windy Boy asked Ms. Callon about GIS mapping.
- 09:27:46 Rep. Windy Boy redirected the question to Jennie Stapp, State Librarian.
- 09:28:35 Rep. Windy Boy commented on access to information.
- 09:29:15 Chair Bedey commented on utilization rates in the personnel report.

Update on Real-Time Network, HB 49, HB 50 and COVID-19 Funding

- 09:30:01 Ms. Stapp reported on September 2022 Updates, COVID-Related Funding & Expenditures, and the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report. (Exhibit 3), (Exhibit 4), (Exhibit 5)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 09:36:40 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Stapp about HB 49 funding.
- 09:37:30 Sen. Bogner asked Ms. Stapp about the goal of election outreach.
- 09:38:44 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Stapp about the impact of wage inflation and for new budget submissions.
- 09:41:05 Ms. Hall interjected regarding budget requests.
- 09:41:30 Chair Bedey addressed Ms. Hall regarding IBCs.
- 09:44:29 Sen. Morigeau commented on the availability of proposed budget specifics.
- 09:45:10 Chair Bedey commented on the budget timeline.
- 09:45:27 Ms. Hall interjected to explain the Governor's office budget proposal process.
- 09:46:46 Ms. Guenther interjected to point out fiscal tools available on the LFD website.
- 09:50:12 Chair Bedey explained his intent in asking for budget proposals now.
- 09:52:37 Sen. Morigeau agreed with Chair Bedey.
- 09:53:03 Chair Bedey invited agencies to provide budget proposals to the committee.
- 09:54:18 Rep. Keogh thanked the State Librarian for the reports provided.

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

- 09:55:41 Alice Hecht, Fiscal Analyst, LFD, presented the Quarterly Financial Report. (Exhibit 6)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 10:02:00 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Hecht for clarification on a retention adjustment, and debt service related to leases.

Update on COVID-19 Funding

- 10:04:50 Tatiana Gant, Executive Director, Montana Arts Council, commented on the report. (Exhibit 7)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 10:07:44 Chair Bedey commented on retention rate and asked Ms. Gant about the impact of inflation on wages and retention.

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- 10:14:12 Ms. Hecht, Fiscal Analyst, LFD, presented the Quarterly Financial Report. (Exhibit 8)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 10:23:50 Chair Bedey asked Molly Kruckenberg, Director, Montana Historical Society, about the impact of wage inflation on recruitment and retention.
- 10:26:24 Sen. Morgieau commended the Historical Society for work on new construction.
- 10:26:52 Rep. Windy Boy asked Ms. Kruckenberg about completion date for construction, and dimensions and deadlines for tribal exhibits.
- 10:29:16 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Kruckenberg that information to be passed along to other tribes.

BREAK (reconvened at 10:59:00)

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- 10:59:43 Chair Bedey and McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE) introduced board members present in the room.
- 11:03:20 Ms. Hecht, Fiscal Analyst, LFD, presented the Quarterly Financial Report. (Exhibit 9)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 11:10:27 Chair Bedey commented on teacher license fees and special revenue accounts.
- 11:11:31 Vice Chair Salomon assumed the chair.

MOTION

- 11:11:53 Rep. Bedey moved PD 34 be approved. (Exhibit 10)

Discussion on the Motion

- 11:13:40 Ms. Flynn commented on PD 34.
- 11:14:24 Sen. Salomon asked Rep. Bedey for clarification on bill and amendments.

Vote

- 11:16:20 Motioned carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Bogner, Rep. Fuller, Rep. Jones, and Rep. Windy Boy voted by proxy.
- 11:17:03 Chair Bedey resumed the chair.

Evaluation of Licensure Program Costs

- 11:17:02 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), explained OPI Licensure Program Costs. (Exhibit 11)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 11:22:18 Rep. Keogh asked Mr. Phillips for clarification on teacher certification.
- 11:23:48 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. Phillips about the overlap of the systems.
- 11:24:56 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Phillips for status of proposed amendment, and anticipated bill proposals.
- 11:26:03 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. Phillips about the efficiencies of the new system.
- 11:26:52 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Phillips about the current need for FTEs and anticipated future savings from efficiencies.
- 11:28:58 Chair Bedey discussed funding sources.

Public Comment

- 11:32:22 Tim Tharp, Savage, MT,
11:34:22 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees.

Economic Impact Statement (EIS): Chapter 55

- 11:35:49 Laura Sankey-Keip, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Division (LSD), gave presentation on standards of accreditation. (Exhibit 12)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 11:41:30 Rep. Keogh asked Ms. Sankey-Keip for clarification on a definition in the EIS.
11:42:44 Sen. Salomon commented on the EIS.
11:43:09 Chair Bedey commented on the EIS.

OPI Review of EIS

- 11:44:25 Julie Murgel, Chief Operation Officer, OPI, presented the EIS report. (Exhibit 13)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 11:57:07 Rep. Windy Boy asked Ms. Murgel about Rule Making Committee membership criteria, and about new rules, considerations and tax impacts of the EIS.
12:05:21 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Murgel about the impact of new rules, and if more information will be available in December.
12:07:08 Chair Bedey asked Ms. Flynn what to expect from the BPE regarding the EIS.

LUNCH (reconvened at 13:00:00)

MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

- 13:01:10 Ms. Hecht, Fiscal Analyst, LFD, presented the Quarterly Financial Report. (Exhibit 14)
13:09:35 Paul Furthmyre, Director, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, summarized projects and funding.

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 13:17:47 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Furthmyre about personnel staffing and overtime.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- 13:21:50 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, LFD, presented the Quarterly Financial Report. (Exhibit 15)
13:34:08 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent, OPI, introduced summary of reports to follow.
13:38:43 Chair Bedey reiterated points regarding teacher license fees that were discussed earlier.

Agency Budget Submission

- 13:39:26 Mr. Phillips presented OPI Budget Submissions. (Exhibit 16)

Committee Discussion and Questions

- 13:48:30 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Phillips for clarification on the report and made recommendations for the Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP) program.
13:52:48 Mr. Phillips deferred the MILP program questions to Superintendent Arntzen.

Update on COVID-19 Funding

13:54:00 Mr. Phillips presented report on ESSER Funds I. (Exhibit 17) (Exhibit 18)

Committee Discussion and Questions

14:01:54 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Phillips for clarification on the report.

14:03:29 Sen. Morigeau asked Mr. Phillips about summer enrichment expenditures.

Data Modernization Project

14:04:04 Chris Sinrud, CIO, OPI, gave presentation on Data Modernization Project. (Exhibit 19)

Committee Discussion and Questions

14:11:59 Rep. Jones asked Mr. Sinrud about the compatibility of systems and made recommendations.

14:22:44 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. Sinrud about data sharing.

14:25:40 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Sinrud about project strategy and follow up.

14:29:40 Rep. Jones commented on integration of the OPI and State systems and asked Adam Carpenter, Chief Data Officer, Department of Administration, to comment on the state systems and data access.

14:30:06 Chair Bedey commented on Rep. Jones's comments and asked Mr. Carpenter to respond.

14:33:59 Chair Bedey commented on data modernization.

ARPA Homeless Children and Youth Funding

14:35:34 Serena Wright, Homeless Coordinator of Education, OPI, presented report on Homeless Children and Youth. (She referred to reports in Exhibit 18) (Exhibit 20)

Update on 20-7-435, MCA

14:47:38 Barbara Quinn, School Finance Manager, OPI, gave update on 20-7-435 (Exhibit 21) (Exhibit 22) (Exhibit 23)

Committee Discussion and Questions

14:55:40 Sen. Salomon asked Ms. Quinn for clarification on the report.

14:56:42 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Phillips about dedicated allocation of facilities, daily contracted rates, and the impact of IEPs.

15:09:58 Chair Bedey asked Mr. Phillips about distinctions between the facilities and services offered, for clarification on funding, and about FTEs.

15:13:14 Rep. Keogh asked Mr. Phillips about duplication of costs and the daily rate.

15:14:57 Chair Bedey expressed concerns about the accounting of expenses and the distinction between facilities.

15:17:01 Chair Bedey explained PD 43 bill draft. (Exhibit 24)

15:22:15 Sen. Salomon assumed the chair.

MOTION

15:21:52 Rep. Bedey moved PD 43 be approved.

Discussion on the Motion

- 15:24:10 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, OPI, explained PD 43.
- 15:25:58 Chair Salomon asked Mr. Taylor for further explanation of bill purpose.
- 15:28:51 Rep. Keogh asked Mr. Taylor about public comment.

Public Comment

None

Vote

- 15:28:36 Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Jones, Rep. Fuller voted by proxy.

MOTION

- 15:30:54 Rep. Bedey moved PD 39 be approved. (Exhibit 25)

Discussion on the Motion

- 15:31:33 Rep. Bedey explained the bill draft.
- 15:38:11 Chair Salomon asked Pad McCracken, Research Analyst, LSD, for clarification on law regarding preschool programs.
- 15:39:55 Rep. Keogh commented on the bill.
- 15:42:55 Rep. Bedey closed comments on the bill.
- 15:44:56 Chair Salomon commented on the bill.

Public Comment

- 15:45:48 Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association
- 15:53:47 Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana
- 15:56:48 Diane Fladmo, Director of Public Policy, Montana Federation of Public Employees
- 16:00:01 Katelyn Jensen, Executive Director, Zero to Five Montana

Vote

- 16:03:51 Motion carried 7-1 by voice vote with Rep. Keogh voting no. Rep. Jones and Rep. Fuller voted by proxy.
- 16:04:31 Rep. Bedey resumed the chair.
- 16:05:45 Sen. Salomon left the meeting.

Montana Indian Language Preservation

- 16:06:05 Rep. Windy Boy gave presentation on the Montana Indian Language Program (MILP) and the Indian Language Immersion Program (ILIP). (Exhibit 26) (Exhibit 27) (Exhibit 28)
- 16:46:30 Rep. Windy Boy summarized his findings. (Exhibit 29)
- 16:50:50 Chair Bedey summarized committee goals regarding MILP and ILIP.

Public Comment

- 16:57:37 Matthew Bell, Language and Culture Specialist

PERSONAL SERVICES and 17-7-111, MCA

17:02:07 Ms. Guenther, Lead Fiscal Analyst, LFD, presented the Personal Services Snapshot to Snapshot Calculation Summary. (Exhibit 30) (Exhibit 31)

Committee Discussion and Questions

17:08:08 Rep. Keogh asked Ms. Guenther about the report.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

17:08:23 Chair Bedey will report to the LFC on the quarterly reports and bill drafts.

ADJOURNMENT

17:11:24 Chair Bedey adjourned the meeting at 17:11.