



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

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**Director**  
AMY CARLSON

DATE: June 18, 2018  
TO: Legislative Finance Committee  
FROM: Shauna Albrecht, Fiscal Analyst  
RE: HB 661 Study of State Labs

The subcommittee for HB 661 Study of State Labs appointed a selection panel in mid-February to interview the firms that had responded to the Request for Qualifications announcement. The selection panel consisted of Russ Katherman, Architecture and Engineering Division; Dan Stevenson, University Services; Dr. Marty Zaluski, Department of Livestock; and Shauna Albrecht, LFD. Interviews were conducted in March and a list of three qualified design firms were submitted to the director of the Department of Administration. LPW Architecture, in association with Clark Enersen Partners, was awarded the contract for the initial research, analysis, and conceptual information to assist in the study of state-supported labs as outlined in HB 661.

LPW Architecture and Clark Enersen Partners, the design team's lab experts, had their initial site visit in April. The team spent a week touring the labs identified in HB 661 and meeting with stakeholders. The focus of the meeting and tours was to establish baseline information on:

- Operation of each lab
- Function and purpose of each lab space
- Adequacy of space sizing
- Efficiency of floor plan layout
- Life safety
- General and backup power measures
- Security
- Biosecurity
- Cleanability
- Temperature and humidity control
- Chemical & material ventilation systems
- Energy efficiency

The subcommittee requested the consulting team look into phased construction options for a lab facility. This would allow for a project to be built in stages, if it were to be passed and funded by the legislature, and to allow for future expansion as new needs arise for testing.

The team conducted additional site visits in May to create in-depth summaries of specific lab space. An initial draft report provided a baseline to combine all six labs into one new facility. The baseline was intended to provide an overview of all the detailed cost information of all labs and is not an option that is considered viable.

The report provides two primary options with minor variations within each one. These preliminary options by the consulting team are outlined below. Estimated costs for the options range between \$43.6 million and \$59.9 million, including project soft costs.

### **Option 1**

- Construct a new building on an undetermined site for VDL, Analytical Lab, and possibly FWP Wildlife Lab
- Wool, Pulse Crop Diagnostic, and Seed Testing labs could relocate to renovated space that is vacated by VDL in Marsh Lab

### **Option 2**

- Construct a new building on an undetermined site for VDL and possibly FWP Wildlife Lab
- Analytical and Pulse Crop Diagnostic labs would relocate to renovated space vacated by the VDL in Marsh Lab

The lab subcommittee and staff will review the draft alternatives and provide guidance to the consultants in refining the options to include in the final report. A final report will be provided to the LFC, along with any recommendations from the subcommittee, at the next LFC meeting in September.