

Process for Hearings on the Budget Director’s Proposed Reductions in Spending (17-7-140, MCA) Before the Legislative Finance Committee

Hearing Process

A hearing will take place on Governor’s Budget Director’s proposed reductions in spending in front of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. The following outlines general guidelines for the hearing related to the proposed reductions.

Wednesday October 4 – Hearing for proposed reductions in spending (10AM, room 102)

- *The LFC will meet in room 102 of the Capitol. Additionally the hearing will be broadcast in rooms 137 and 172, which are just down the hall from room 102 and have been reserved to provide additional seating for members of agencies and the public. Those wishing to provide public comment may watch from any of the three rooms but will need to provide testimony in front of the committee in room 102 when the time for public comment is announced by the Chair*
- *LFC chair opens hearing: “I open the hearing for the Budget Director’s proposed reductions in spending.”*
- *Chair Announcements [general sequence of hearing, overflow seating, witnesses to sign in, submission of written testimony, committee rules, and time management announcements (time limits)]*
- *Governor’s Budget Director overview and testimony*
- *LFD overview*
- *LSD legal overview*
- *Individual section hearings (see below)*
- *After end of testimony, LFC chair announces: “This closes the hearing for the Budget Director’s proposed reductions in spending.”*
- *Chair Announcements [closing comments or instructions]*

The hearing for each section will follow these steps:

- *The LFC chair announces opening of the section: “The hearing for the Budget Director’s proposed reductions in spending for Section ___ is opened.”*
- *LFD section overview/comments**
- *Opportunity for Elected Official/Board of Regents comments (applicable to Sections D and E only)*
- *Questions from the committee*
- *Public comment*
- *Additional questions from the committee, as necessary*
- *Close the hearing on that section: “This closes the hearing for the Budget Director’s proposed reductions in spending for Section ___.”*
- *Open the hearing on the next section*
- *Once all sections are done, LFC chair announces: “This closes the hearing for the Budget Director’s proposed reductions in spending.”*

Order of Sections

- A
- C
- B
- D
- E

* See the second page of this document for a list of agencies included in each Section hearing.

Section A (AM)

1. Legislative Branch
2. Governor's Office
3. Commissioner of Political Practices
4. Department of Revenue
5. Department of Administration
6. Department of Commerce
7. Department of Labor & Industry
8. Department of Military Affairs

Section C (AM)

1. Department of Environmental Quality
2. Department of Livestock
3. Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
4. Department of Agriculture

Section B (PM)

1. Department of Public Health and Human Services

Section D (PM)

1. Judicial Branch
2. Montana Board of Crime Control
3. Department of Justice
4. Office of Public Defender
5. Department of Corrections

Section E (PM)

1. K-12 Agencies
 - a. Office of Public Instruction
 - b. Board of Public Education
2. MUS and Cultural Agencies
 - a. Commissioner of Higher Education
 - b. Montana Arts Council
 - c. Montana State Library
 - d. Montana Historical Society

The following agencies, whose operations are not supported with general fund or exempt from reductions under 17-7-140, were not included in the Budget Director's proposed reductions in spending and are therefore not required at the hearing: Consumer Counsel, Secretary of State's Office, State Auditor's Office, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Department of Transportation, Public Service Regulation, and the Montana School for the Deaf & Blind.