



LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

67th Montana Legislature

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

SENATE MEMBERS

DAVID HOWARD, VICE-CHAIR
RYAN LYNCH
DAN BARTEL

HOUSE MEMBERS

EMMA KERR-CARPENTER
BILL MERCER, CHAIR
FIONA NAVE
KERRI SEEKINS-CROWE

KATYA GROVER, Clerk
CATHY DUNCAN, Fiscal Analyst

Interim Budget Committee - Public Safety & Public Service
Section D: Judicial Branch, Department of Justice, Public Service Commission, Office of Public
Defender, Corrections,
Agenda
(all times are subject to change)
December 15, 2021

- 8:30 Roll call
- 8:35 Introduction – Chairman Mercer
- 8:45 Department of Corrections – Dir. Brian Gootkin
July-November Budget Report, Cathy Duncan
Agency discussion topics:
- 1) Update on DOC re-organization
 - 2) HB 693 Reporting
 - a. Utilization of drug treatment beds
 - b. Defendants sentenced for felonies in county detention for more than 10 days
 - c. Update on plans for other future reporting
 - d. Update on discontinue of use of Great Falls regional prison
 - 3) Update on offender placement based on a risk and needs score
 - 4) Update on pre-screening and risk activities and impacts
 - 5) Update on utilization of community-based options and treatment programs
 - 6) Board of Probation and Parole -
 - a. Report on provision of new FTE
- OBPP Comments – Brent Doig
Public Comment – Department of Correction Topics
- 10:45 Judicial Branch – Beth McLaughlin
July-November Budget Report, Cathy Duncan
Agency discussion topics:
- 1) HB 693 Reporting
 - a. Number of civil cases pending for more than 2 years
 - b. Update on potential fee for service model for State Law Library

c. Progress on the appointment of new judges and hiring of staff for them
OBPP Comments – Brent Doig
Public Comment – Judicial Branch Topics

11:30 Public Service Commission – Chairman Brown

July-November Budget, Cathy Duncan

Agency discussion topics:

1) Update on plans for agency improvements – Chairman Brown

2) Update on software modernization project

OBPP Comments – Brent Doig

Public Comment – Public Service Commission Topics

12:15 Lunch Break

1:30 Department of Justice – Kris Hansen

July-November Budget Report, Cathy Duncan

Agency discussion topics:

1) Update on caseload issues/concerns

a. Plans for ARPA funding

2) Update on transition of 9-1-1 system and interoperative communications funded in the 2019 Session

3) MT Highway Patrol

a. Update on move to Boulder campus and related costs

4) Board of Crime Control

a. Update on transition to DOJ

b. HJ 29 – Initial Planning – Natalia Bowser

i. March work session

OBPP Comments – Brent Doig

Public Comment – Department of Justice Topics

2:40 Office of Public Defender – Rhonda Lindquist

July-November Budget Report, Cathy Duncan

Agency discussion topics:

1) Backlog resolution/contract assistant update

a. New cases and caseload reporting

2) Update on cases not assigned

a. ARPA funding plans

3) HB 693 Reporting (updates)

a. Plans to address accurate and complete time entries by employees

b. Plans to address billing practices by contractors

c. Update on plans for other future reporting

OBPP Comments – Brent Doig

Public Comment – Office of Public Defender Topics

BREAK AS NEEDED

3:45 Briefing on data projects – Rachel Weiss, Nick Van Brown, Cathy Duncan

5:00 Public Comment on any topic before the Sec. D Interim Budget Committee

Adjourn

DRAFT