

Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Work Plan for the 2007 - 2008 Interim

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Summary

This Work Plan for the 2007-2008 Economic Affairs Interim Committee (EAIC) contains an introduction regarding EAIC duties and a proposed schedule in which to accomplish those duties.

The subsequent sections of the Work Plan provide detail for the statutory duties and outline plans for the four studies assigned by Legislative Council to the EAIC.

EAIC members may choose to revise the Work Plan at any time, taking into consideration the committee budget, staff resources, and preliminary findings.

I. *Introduction*

In line with the statutory duties of interim committees (detailed in the next section), the Economic Affairs Interim Committee has responsibility for:

- reviewing rules of certain executive agencies under the Committee's purview;
- monitoring of certain executive agencies' programs and preliminary review of those agencies' draft legislation; and
- studying and reporting to the next Legislature on any issues assigned to the EAIC by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council assigned four studies to the EAIC for this interim: HJR 28 regarding business infrastructure and economic development; HJR 39 regarding academic research and commercialization; HJR 48 regarding health care financing reform; and SJR 13 regarding value-added food production in Montana.

The EAIC members also may choose to study or hear reports on various subjects of interest to the committee. A list of sample topics is included in the appendix (addendum #1). At the organizational meeting on June 15, the topic of workers' compensation was brought to the attention of staff as a potential topic for committee consideration. Committee members may suggest a topic to staff at any time to be incorporated into subsequent hearings as the schedule permits.

In addition to the traditional duties assigned to interim committees, the 2007 Legislature approved new duties that were signed into law requiring:

- the EAIC presiding officer to name two EAIC members to the Rail Service Competition Council during the first meeting, pursuant to House Bill 26. At this meeting, the presiding officer appointed Senator Hansen and Representative Milburn.

The proposed schedule, operating within budget restrictions, is for an organizational meeting in

June, funded under the FY2007 budget, and up to six meetings under the FY 2006-07 budget:

<u>General Meeting Topics</u>	<u>Proposed Date</u>
Organizational Meeting	June 15, 2007 (Friday)
Agency Monitoring/SJR 13 & HJR 28 Reports Subcommittee on HJR 48	November 8, 2007 (Thursday) November 9
Agency Monitoring, HJR 39 & 48 Reports Subcommittee on HJR 48	February 7, 2008 (Thursday) February 8
Agency Monitoring/SJR 13 & HJR 48 Reports Subcommittee on HJR 48	May 7, 2008 (Wednesday) May 8
Agency Monitoring & HJR 39 & 48 Reports	July 17 & 18, 2007 (Thursday and Friday)
Final Reports/Legislation Review	September 12, 2008 (Friday)

Given the requirement for the EAIC budget to cover the costs for two members as liaisons to the State Fund, the EAIC may need to reduce the number of its meetings to cover the salary, travel and per diem of members attending approximately two State Fund meetings in 2007 and five State Fund meetings in 2008.

During the committee's organizational meeting on June 15th, the committee expressed the goal of holding meetings outside of Helena as possible and feasible to conduct research in different communities and seek input from the public on the issues before the committee. All subsequent planning in this area will need to balance not only budgetary considerations, but the joint responsibilities of serving all of Montana through conducting on-site hearings and monitoring of executive branch agencies in Helena as provided in 5-5-215, MCA.

The study resolutions require that interim committee work, including final reports, recommendations, and any proposals for legislation, be completed by September 15, 2008.

II. *Statutory Obligations and Review of Duties*

- 5-5-215. Duties of interim committees.** (1) Each interim committee shall:
- (a) review administrative rules within its jurisdiction;
 - (b) subject to 5-5-217(3), conduct interim studies as assigned;
 - (c) monitor the operation of assigned executive branch agencies with specific attention to the following:
 - (i) identification of issues likely to require future legislative attention;
 - (ii) opportunities to improve existing law through the analysis of problems experienced with the application of the law by an agency; and
 - (iii) experiences of the state's citizens with the operation of an agency that may be amenable to improvement through legislative action;
 - (d) review proposed legislation of assigned agencies or entities as provided in the joint legislative rules; and
 - (e) accumulate, compile, analyze, and furnish information bearing upon its assignment and relevant to existing or prospective legislation as it determines, on its own initiative, to be pertinent to the adequate completion of its work.
- (2) Each interim committee shall prepare bills and resolutions that, in its

opinion, the welfare of the state may require for presentation to the next regular session of the legislature.

(3) The legislative services division shall keep accurate records of the activities and proceedings of each interim committee.

Duties specific to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee

A. Rule Review

Under 5-5-215, MCA, an interim committee "shall review administrative rules within its jurisdiction." EAIC legal staff in the past has reviewed the agency rulemaking notices and provided information on rules considered to be noncompliant with legislative intent. The Committee has also responded to constituent concerns about rules by requesting representatives of various sides to comment at a committee hearing. According to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act (MAPA), the committee charged with reviewing agency rules may:

- request agency rulemaking records for ensuring compliance with MAPA;
- submit recommendations regarding the adoption, amendment, or rejection of a rule;
- require that a hearing be conducted;
- participate in proceedings;
- review the conduct of administrative proceedings.

Action item: EAIC members set a moderately involved level for reviewing agency rules, to include:

- Requesting written, one-sentence descriptions prior to committee meetings of all rules;
- Reviewing in committee only those topics that:
 - 1) Committee members determine to be of concern or important; or
 - 2) A member of the committee has asked to be placed on the EAIC agenda;
 - 3) Legal staff determines to be an issue the committee should be briefed on; or
 - 4) An agency or member of the public has requested be placed on the agenda through the approval of the committee's presiding officers.

B. Program Monitoring

Pursuant to 5-5-215, MCA (Duties of Interim Committees), the Committee shall monitor the operation of assigned agencies with specific attention paid to:

- identifying issues likely to require future legislative attention;
- improving existing law; and
- seeking the input of citizens regarding the operation of agencies.

The EAIC monitors the:

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Labor and Industry
- Department of Livestock

- Office of the State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner
- Governor's Office of Economic Development
- State Fund¹.

Staff will work with the presiding officer and vice presiding officer to schedule agency² participation in committee hearings for general briefings, as well as to provide information on any of the four studies assigned to the committee for the interim as appropriate. Committee members may also forward questions to lead staff regarding agency operations, status of legislative implementation, or related functions.

C. Draft Legislation Review

Draft legislation review is intended for both the interim committee's suggested legislation and for legislation to be proposed by agencies monitored by the Committee. The agencies are expected to have submitted their proposals to the Governor's Office by June in the year preceding the legislative session. Interim legislative committees then review the legislation, according to Joint Rule 40-40(5)(a): "Unless requested by an individual member, a bill draft request submitted at the request of an agency must be submitted to, reviewed by, and requested by the appropriate interim or statutory committee." Some agencies provide drafts of their legislation. Others review only the concepts. If the EAIC wants to review actual drafts, the members should give early notice to each of the agencies.

The 2005-06 Economic Affairs Interim Committee handled the following agency bill requests:

Department of Agriculture	0
Department of Commerce	10 (5 bills became law, 1 not introduced)
Department of Labor and Industry	13 (9 bills became law, 3 not introduced)
Department of Livestock	1 (became law)
State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner	8 (4 bills became law, 2 not introduced)
Governor's Office	1 (became law)
State Fund	0
Total:	33 (24 bills became law, 5 drafts were not introduced, 4 bills died in the process)

¹ Executive agencies assigned by 5-5-223, MCA, to the Economic Affairs Committee are: the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor and Industry, the Department of Livestock, the State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner, and the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Although the State Fund is administratively assigned to the Department of Administration under 2-15-1019, MCA, a Memorandum of Agreement was established during the 1999-2000 interim between the Economic Affairs Interim Committee's predecessor, the Business and Labor Interim Committee, and the State Administration, Public Retirement Systems, and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee. The agreement was for the Business and Labor Interim Committee to monitor State Fund, in part because the Business and Labor Committee had been assigned an interim study dealing with State Fund. In the subsequent interims the Economic Affairs Interim Committee continued to include the State Fund within its monitoring activities. Staff for the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee and the Economic Affairs Interim Committee suggest a similar transfer arrangement for the 2007-2008 interim.

III. Study Activities

The Legislative Council on May 15, 2007, assigned HJR 28, a study of business infrastructure in Montana as it relates to economic development initiatives; HJR 39, a study on the economic benefits of pursuing commercialization projects with existing research units within the Montana university system; HJR 48, a study of health insurance reform and publicly funded health care programs; and SJR 13, a study to evaluate methods and recommend ways to add value to Montana agricultural products through redevelopment of a food processing industry (see addendum #2 for full bill texts).

At four studies, including the highest ranked study by the legislature, HJR 48, this constitutes a full workload for the committee along with other duties. At the organizational meeting on June 15th, staff outlined preliminary steps to ensure the committee is able to review the full breadth of the four studies as efficiently as possible. These steps are finalized in this work plan. With respect to HJR 48, the committee will need to further prioritize the options available for this complex study. On the August 17th conference call, the committee decided to appoint a subcommittee for HJR 48 to further focus staff efforts after the full committee has approved study options. It is the staff recommendation that the subcommittee's efforts be concentrated on the front side of the interim, with later briefings going before the full committee. The following reflects a *roadmap* for the four studies, with the committee's understanding that the course may need to change and other roads chosen should information be presented to the committee that both generates interest and serves to meet the objectives within the four study resolutions.

HJR 28: This study resolution was introduced by Representative Cohenour and cosponsored by Representatives Augare, Dutton, Henry, L. Jones, McAlpin, Mendenhall, Nooney, Pomnichowski, Villa, Windy Boy, and Wiseman. The resolution proposes studying the ability of the state of Montana to support economic development with the current level of business infrastructure. "Business infrastructure" as defined in the legislation, means such components as transportation and communication systems, workforce readiness, current businesses that provide logistical support to entrepreneurs, etc. The study resolution also specifically asks for an analysis of programs in other states that have been enacted to help improve that states' business infrastructure.

Staff has recommended that a research paper by staff, typically called a white paper, be used to bring the information before the committee pertaining to business infrastructure in Montana. Staff will research and catalogue for the committee all public data sets to develop a comparison of Montana with other states as feasible and relevant to the resolution's objectives. Staff will also look at enacted legislation and other public policy from other states, if available, to provide the committee with options for future legislative initiatives.

To complement staff research efforts, at the June 15th organizational meeting, staff recommended a survey of businesses to ask how businesses are affected by the current status of business infrastructure and to identify potential areas for improvement. The Montana Chamber of Commerce volunteered to partner with the EAIC to conduct this survey, using an existing survey process available through the Chamber. Staff will coordinate this effort on behalf of the committee and include the results in the white paper report.

HJR39: This study resolution was introduced by Representative Erickson and cosponsored by Representatives Hamilton, Nooney, Hendrick, and MacLaren. The resolution proposes that economic development in high-tech (low environmental impact) industries are tied to research in state university systems; portends that the Montana university system is not competitive with other states with regard to research in the sciences and high-tech disciplines; and states that commercialization projects coming out of this type of research will create jobs in Montana, with the correlating benefit of keeping graduates of the university system in the state in high-salary employment. The sponsor of the resolution worked in cooperation with Professor Walter E. Hill, Ph.D., of the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Montana in Missoula, and at the EAIC organizational meeting, the committee expressed their commitment to Dr. Hill's continued involvement in the study as a resource to the committee.

This study represents an opportunity for both the EAIC and the legislature as a whole to explore the issue of economic development through a dialogue with the Montana university system. As discussed at the organizational meeting, this dialogue will require extensive hearings from university officials, members of the academic community, economic development officials (local and state), economists, and other business experts. Staff have made contacts with university officials and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, all of whom have expressed their support to the process of exploring the issues included in the resolution and the duties of the EAIC. The study will be divided into two separate components, which will be congruent for the final report.

Public Hearings:

The Montana university system keeps detailed records of the economic impact of the university system in local communities and the state as a whole. At the June 15th meeting, the committee received a published report that showed the university system contributing over \$360 million in out-of-state dollars to Montana's economy. The committee can build on the figures contained in this report; however, the resolution deals specifically with the issue of investment in high-tech research expanding into private commercial ventures. As part of committee meetings, as discussed in the June 15th organizational meeting, the following hearing process will be invaluable for the committee to address specifically the research component:

- A panel discussion on how research is conducted in the university setting and the impact this has on the private sector as it relates to developing technology and commercial projects, as well as adding to the workforce through graduates going on to employment or entrepreneurial activities in-state. In order for the committee to garner the full perspective from this academic environment, the following panelists (listed here by profession if not by individual name) will need to be included. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, and staff can add panelists and include resources as the committee sees appropriate.
 1. A representative of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. The office contains a division responsible for research, technology, and communication, and staff have been in contact with the Associate Commissioner for this division, Mr. Tyler Trevor, following his testimony June 15th. Mr. Trevor has communicated that his office is able to both provide information directly to the committee, as well as help coordinate outreach to the larger university structure.

2. This study requires a rather sophisticated economic analysis of the impact of this type of research on the economy. Legislative interest will likely include questions about the number and types of employment created, percentage of economic growth, etc. A panel discussion and flow of information to the committee will be greatly aided by having an economist as part of this process. Dr. Paul Polzin, Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana, has a long history of making his research available for legislative consideration. Since the committee is charged with a specialized analysis, staff will contact Dr. Polzin at the soonest date possible during the interim to brief him and his staff on the nature of the study, to see both what resources are already available and also where specialized research is achievable and relevant. Other experts in this area may also be called upon.

3. Members of the economic development community will also be a resource to the committee. In addition to state personnel, the committee may want to take advantage of local economic development officials who can speak to the issue at the community level. Dick King, President of the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation, can provide the committee with information on economic impact in the high-tech area. King is also the administrator of MonTEC, a business incubator partnering with the University of Montana, and thus can speak directly to the extent of commercialization through university research.

4. University research is typically arranged by the office of each research faculty member, and the operation is directed by this faculty member (even as other staff offices support this faculty member's operation). In order for the committee to have a full understanding of how this type of research takes place, who funds the projects, and what types of research are being conducted, a panel should include a representation of faculty who are involved in active high-tech research (staff would also recommend a representative from both the Missoula and Bozeman campuses, at a minimum, be included). Since the resolution also addresses the issue of college graduates leaving the state, these faculty members might also be a source of information on the location and activity of many of their recent graduate students.

- If a committee hearing were to take place at one of the campuses in the university system, preferably one with a large amount of the type of research targeted by the resolution, an agenda item might include faculty and graduate students (separate from a public comment period), so that in addition to the individuals participating in the panel discussion, the committee will be able to hear a wide variety of experiences and types of specialization within current academic research.

Staff Research:

The resolution mentions the deficiencies within the Montana University System with regard to research infrastructure. In addition to the extensive hearings mentioned above, staff will conduct research, in conjunction with all stakeholders, to try to determine if other university systems might be used for comparison purposes. Since public policy considerations on this matter would center on public investment that would return a net economic gain to the state, the study should include the level of investment in other states' universities and economic analysis of the impact to the states' economy where practicable. A caveat for legislative consideration:

since academic research is inherently intellectual in nature, it may be difficult to determine whether a specific type of research will yield a product with commercial appeal.

HJR 48

Introduction

This revised Draft Work Plan for House Joint Resolution No. 48, a study of health insurance reform and public funding of health care programs, will require a minimum of 16 hours of concentrated committee or subcommittee work time. That can be accomplished in four 4-hour half-days or a combination of full day subcommittee meetings and limited full committee time.

This Draft Work Plan lists topics to be addressed as provided in HJR 48, divided into menu options based on what deliverables are preferred. The main study areas are: approaches to health-care financing (insurance exchange, tax credits, expansion of existing systems), use of health insurance pools and community delivery systems, and the advantages or disadvantages of mandated coverage (in total or in types of service) and of health savings accounts. Deliverables can be specific, as in legislation, or general, as in information.

I. Scope of Study

The Legislative Council on May 15, 2007, assigned House Joint Resolution No. 48, a study regarding health insurance reform and systems of paying for health care, to the EAIC with the suggestion that a joint subcommittee be formed with the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee. The EAIC chose at its June meeting to request that the Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee form a joint subcommittee and appointed members. At an August meeting, the EAIC reconsidered that vote and decided to keep HJR 48 solely in the EAIC and within a subcommittee.

2. Issues as listed in legislation with related activity

The goal of the study is to review options for increasing access to health care at reasonable costs. Access involves who pays for coverage of health care services as well as availability. Reasonable costs involve issues of quality and affordability of care or of health insurance premiums. The study is broad in its list of issues. Specifically listed tasks include:

- Study creation of a system of universal, portable, affordable health insurance coverage that involves private health insurance issuers and incorporates existing public programs.
- Study ways to improve the quality, affordability, and delivery of health care.
- Study use of a health insurance exchange and what would be necessary to implement it.
- Examine similar reforms enacted in other states, including the cost of the reforms to the states and to consumers, any improvements in affordability or availability, and barriers to enactment, along with solutions to those barriers.
- Study advantages and disadvantages of mandating private universal coverage.
- Address whether and, if so, how to incorporate existing state-related insurance programs into reforms.
- Address whether to include public employee health benefit programs in a reform proposal.
- Address whether to maximize the use of federal funds and ensure broader coverage through existing publicly funded health care programs, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and, if so, what types of changes might be needed.
- Examine how health care providers handle uncompensated care and provide an estimate of

the uncompensated costs.

- Examine opportunities for coordination with the federal government and tribes regarding health care services and programs.
- Examine other issues related to access to health care, including access in rural areas.
- Examine opportunities for coordinating workforce planning and medical education funding.
- Involve interested parties.

3. Study Schedule (all times tentative -- this will be revised, depending on menu choices)

Original Schedule:

June to September Staff to compile from legislators, other states, and interested persons a list of goals and concerns plus background reports on HJR 48 issues.

1st meeting (1-2 hrs) Committee/subcommittee to adopt work plan and operating guidelines, scope of study and types of deliverables.

2nd meeting (4 hrs) Speakers on three types of health care financing: health insurance exchange, tax credits, combination of private/public pay. Panel on self-sufficiency, insurability, underinsured.

3rd meeting (4 hrs) Panel discussions/reports on expanding existing insurance pools (state, teachers, Insure MT, Montana Comprehensive Health Association) and roles of Indian Health Service and community health centers.

4rd meeting (4 hrs) Panel discussion on mandated universal coverage through private and public payors and changes in existing mandates to provide more price ranges for existing private pay insurance. Examine Health Savings Accounts. Choose whether to draft legislation on any of the above topics.

5th meeting (2 hrs) Meeting to review legislation and remaining HJR 48 issues.

6th meeting (1 hr) Consider final report and legislation changes/recommendations. Review by full committees of final report/legislative suggestions.

4. Study deliverables and end products (to be identified from Menu Choices, see below)

- Briefing Papers
- Panel Discussions
- Legislation

MENU CHOICES for HJR 48: Reforming Health Care Financing

Study area (1)	Study creation of a system of universal, portable, affordable health insurance coverage that involves private health insurance issuers and incorporates existing public programs.
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<p>**Full meal**</p> <p>~ 8 hours for presentations and discussions</p> <p>Massachusetts took 3 years on its plan.</p> <p>This option can include all of study areas (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) and parts of study area (2).</p>	<p>A) Briefing paper on other states' health insurance reforms involving expanded coverage, including options for expanded public programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate overview of differences between those states and Montana's existing, relevant laws to clarify what changes would be needed. <p>B) Presentations by representatives from selected states or people knowledgeable about the reforms in those states.</p> <p>C) Panel discussions by insurers, State Auditor's Office, and representatives of existing programs in Montana, like the Montana Contractors Association plan, which has some portability features.</p> <p>D) Panel discussions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance pricing as that affects affordability. • Transparency, involving representatives of hospitals, physicians, insurers, the Attorney General's office. • Certificate of need or public service commission-type approaches to review of allowing new health care competitors or services. <p>E) Review options for expanding public programs, with commentary by DPHHS.</p>
<p>**Light meal**</p> <p>~ 4 to 5 hours for presentation and discussion</p>	<p>Combination of A with C plus either D or E (above).</p>
<p>**Snack**</p> <p>~ 2 hours for presentation and discussion</p>	<p>A) Briefing paper on other states' health insurance reforms involving expanded coverage, including options for expanded public programs.</p>
<p>**Fasting**</p>	<p>no action</p>
<p>Study area (2)</p>	<p>Study ways to improve the quality, affordability, and delivery of health care.</p>
<p>**Full meal**</p> <p>Panel = 2 hrs Study = contract (possible grant \$)</p> <p>Total ~ 4.5 - 5 hrs (beyond time in Study Area 1)</p>	<p>A) Panel discussion on how to regulate/achieve improvements in quality.</p> <p>B) Incorporate Study Area (1) for affordability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand to include formal study of health care costs in Montana. <p>C) Panel discussion on options to expand health care delivery systems in a way that improves access to care (e.g. Community Health Centers)</p> <p>D) Briefing paper on quality, affordability, and delivery issues (some of which are in SJR 15)</p> <p>E) Updates on SJR 15 study of health care delivery systems.</p>

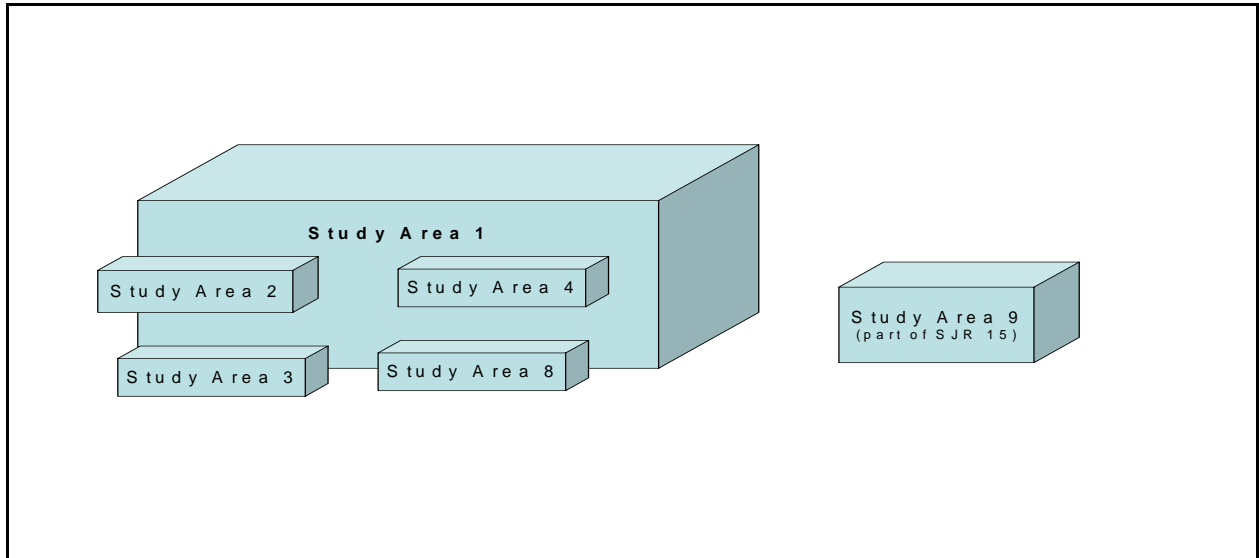
Light meal ~ 2.5 - 3 hrs	Combination of A, B without formal study, D and E.
Snack	Briefing paper (D)
Fasting	no action
Study area (3)	Study use of a health insurance exchange and what would be necessary to implement it.
Full meal ~ 2.5-3 hrs	A) Presentation and panel discussion involving people involved with Massachusetts Plan, the Montana Contractors Association Trust regarding its portability factor, State Auditor's Office, and insurer representatives B) Briefing paper
Light meal ~1.5 - 2 hrs	A) Presentation regarding Massachusetts Plan, State Auditor's Office, and insurer representatives. No panel discussion. B) Briefing paper
Snack	Briefing paper (B)
Fasting	no action
Study area (4)	Examine similar reforms enacted in other states, including the cost of the reforms to the states and to consumers, any improvements in affordability or availability, and barriers to enactment, along with solutions to those barriers.
Full meal Hour per state Total ~ 4-6 hrs.	A) Choose 4 to 6 states with different approaches (e.g. Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Indiana, Hawaii, and New York) and calculate cost of reforms for states and consumers, etc., for each. Prepare as a briefing paper. B) Include presentations by representatives in each state either in person or by teleconference. Incorporate with study area (3) and, if chosen the "Full meal" of study area (1).
Light meal Hour per state Total ~ 3 hrs.	A) Choose 3 states with different approaches and calculate the cost of reforms for states and consumers, etc., for each. Prepare as a briefing paper. B) Include presentations by representatives in each state by teleconference.
Snack Hour per state Total ~ 2 hrs.	A) Choose 2 states with different approaches and calculate the cost of reforms for states and consumers, etc., for each. Prepare as a briefing paper.
Fasting	no action

Study area (5)	Study advantages and disadvantages of mandating private universal coverage.
Full meal If part of (1), (3) or (4) extra 0.5 hr. Requires MA & HI to be part of (1), (3) or (4). If not part of (1), (3) or (4), then 1 hr each	A) Incorporate with Study Areas (1), (3) and (4) as they pertain to Massachusetts (individual coverage) and Hawaii (employer mandate) B) Presentations by representatives of each (in person or by teleconference) C) Briefing paper
Light meal If part of study areas (1), (3) or (4) add 0.5 hr. Requires MA & HI to be part of (1), (3) or (4).	A and C above.
Snack	C (briefing paper)
Fasting	no action
Study area (6)	Address whether and, if so, how to incorporate existing state-related insurance programs (e.g. Insure Montana and MCHA) into reforms.
Full meal If done separately from study area (1), ~1.5 hrs ea for (A) & (B). 2.5 hrs if both	A) Panel discussion involving State Auditor's Office and insurer representatives. B) Panel discussion of briefing paper detailing state law changes that would be necessary, based on different scenarios of change. C) Briefing paper
Light meal ~ 1.5 hrs	B) Panel discussion on briefing paper (State Auditor's Office and insurer representatives talking only about state laws that need to change) C) Briefing paper
Snack	C) Briefing paper
Fasting	no action
Study area (7)	Address whether to include public employee health benefit programs in a reform proposal.
Full meal ~2.5-3 hrs	A) Panel discussion by State Auditor's Office, state, county, municipal, university system, and schools health benefits officials regarding impacts of any proposed changes. B) Briefing paper detailing state law changes that would be necessary.

Light meal ~ 2 hrs	A) Presentations by state, county, municipal, university system, and schools health benefits officials regarding proposed changes. (No panel) B) Briefing paper detailing state law changes that would be necessary.
Snack	B) Briefing paper
Fasting	no action
Study area (8)	Address whether to maximize the use of federal funds and ensure broader coverage through existing publicly funded health care programs, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and, if so, what types of changes might be needed.
Full meal ~ 1 hr per presentation	A) Incorporate this with Study Area (1). B) Obtain financial estimates of the cost of expanding existing publicly funded health care programs. (Request LFD's help) C) Review various federal waivers to determine how federal money can be maximized. (Request LFD's help) D) Review what types of changes are necessary in existing law for expansion. Presentation by DPHHS. E) Briefing paper on the A through D.
Light meal	A, B, D and E (omitting C)
Snack	Briefing paper on issues A, B, D.
Fasting	no action
Study area (9)	Examine how health care providers handle uncompensated care and provide an estimate of the uncompensated costs.
Full meal ~ 2 hrs for panel discussion	A) Staff contact major health care providers to determine how they handle uncompensated care and obtain estimate of their costs. B) Request information from Attorney General on the Department of Justice study of hospitals' uncompensated care. C) List other states' options for dealing with uncompensated care (e.g. creating an uncompensated care pool by taxing providers who do not handle uncompensated care) D) Panel discussion by providers on menu of state options E) Briefing paper
Light meal	B, C and E
Snack	Briefing paper on C
Fasting	no action
Study area (10)	Examine opportunities for coordination with the federal government and tribes regarding health care services and programs.

Full meal ~ 2 hrs for panel discussion	A) Panel discussion on interconnections between Indian Health Service, Medicaid, private providers on or near reservations. Include discussion of uncompensated care, contract services, community health centers. B) Compile a literature review regarding options that might be employed to treat health care problems before they become critical, particularly on or near reservations or involving urban Indians. C) Briefing paper on the subjects in A and B.
Light meal ~ 2 hrs for panel discussion	Panel discussion only (A).
Snack	Literature review only (B)
Fasting	no action
Study area (11)	Examine other issues related to access to health care, including access in rural areas.
Full meal 30 minutes for each presentation	A) Compile data on health care facilities by location. B) Survey larger hospitals to determine: the severity of the case load by geographic area and transport factors, including distance, availability, and types of transport services. C) PA briefing paper on health information technology in rural areas. D) Provide information on medical-related bankruptcies and the interconnection between patient debt and delayed access to care. E) Presentations on one or more of the above issues
Light meal	Three of A, B, C, or D in the form of a briefing paper.
Snack	One of A, B, C, or D in the form of a briefing paper..
Fasting	no action
Study area (12)	Examine opportunities for coordinating workforce planning and medical education funding.
Full meal	A) Review medically related education programs available in Montana. B) Review health care work force shortage areas. C) Panel discussion by university system on measures that successfully coordinate workforce planning and medical education funding and barriers to coordination.
Light meal	Choose two from A, B, or C.
Snack	Choose one from A, B, or C.
Fasting	no action

Some Study Areas overlap. For example:



Staff Time for Various Study Areas and Options

Study Area	Full Meal Option	Light Meal Option	Snack Option
Study Area 1	Additional 50 hrs	same	same
Study Area 2	Briefing paper = 50 hrs	same	same
Study Area 3	Briefing paper = 40 hrs	same	same
Study Area 4	50 hrs from Study Area 1 plus 30 hrs per state for additional information = 50+120 or 50+ 180 hrs	50 hrs from Study Area 1 plus 30 hrs per state for additional info: 50 + 90= 140 hrs	50 hrs from Study Area 1 plus 30 hrs per state for additional info: 50 + 60= 110 hrs
Study Area 5	From Study Area 1 plus 20 hrs for more detail on mandates for briefing paper.	same	same
Study Area 6	40 hrs for briefing paper on laws needing change	same	same
Study Area 7	40 hrs for briefing paper on laws needing change	same	same
Study Area 8	40 hrs staff time plus 40 hrs LFD staff time	same	same
Study Area 9	50-80 hrs for A 10 hrs to compile B 40 hrs for C Briefing paper = A+B+C	B= 10 hrs C = 40 hrs Briefing paper = B+C	Briefing paper on C = 40 hrs.

Study Area 10	Subjects in A = 40 hrs B - Literature review = 30 hrs Briefing paper = A+B	Background work for A subjects = 10 hrs	Literature review (B) = 30 hrs. (more staff work than "light meal" but less work for EAIC)
Study Area 11	A - being done for SJR 15. Additional 10 hrs B - 60 hrs (may be less if MHA helps) C - part of SJR 15 - additional 10 hrs D) 60 hrs. Information does not seem readily available.	Depending on which of three is chosen: A - 10 hrs B - 60 hrs C - 10 hrs D - 60 hrs	Depending on which one is chosen: A - 10 hrs B - 60 hrs C - 10 hrs D - 60 hrs
Study Area 12	A - 30 hrs B - 25 hrs C - 5 hrs	Two from A, B, or C	One of A, B, or C

1 Interim FTE = 16 months = 2720 hrs. EAIC timeline = 11 or 12 months, depending on vote.
No more than 0.30 FTE for this particular study = approximately 800 hours. Full Meal Option = ~740 hours

SJR 13

Introduction

This Draft Work Plan for Senate Joint Resolution No. 13, a study of value-added agriculture and the redevelopment of a Montana food processing industry, will begin with comments from interested parties regarding what is needed in Montana for improving, expanding, or building a food-processing industry. Staff will also provide a report on model programs and policies that exist elsewhere, along with a summary of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of those model programs and policies and a review of activities related to value-added production in states with geography similar to Montana's.

After receiving the background information, the interim committee will hear from panels of interested persons on the barriers to value-added food production in Montana and policies that the legislature might propose to improve the value-added food production industry in this state.

I. Scope of Study

The Legislative Council on May 15, 2007, assigned Senate Joint Resolution No. 13, a study of value-added agriculture and the redevelopment of a Montana food processing industry to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee. Staff estimates that the study will require approximately 6 hours of committee time for reviewing background information, 2 panel discussions, and discussions of proposed legislation. The issues to be studied are listed below.

2. Issues as listed in legislation

SJR 13 states that Montana is losing opportunities to process agricultural products locally because of the small size of its food processing industry. As a result, value-added processing occurs elsewhere and the profits of processing flow to others.

To determine whether model programs and policies in effect elsewhere would work in Montana, the study proposes to involve input from producers, legislators, relevant businesses and

nonprofit organizations, higher education, and state agencies to provide:

- a review of model programs and statistics from other states on the development of value-added food enterprises;
- a summary of the impacts on the economy, society, and the environment of these programs and policies;
- a local list of barriers to value-added food production;
- a report on how states with geography similar to Montana's add value to agricultural products; and
- proposals for legislation, letters of support, or other options that support value-added production, sustain natural resources, and encourage fair treatment of participants.

3. Study Schedule

2 hours Panel discussion on current activities involving farm-to-market efforts and barriers to value-added food production, including what producers, nonprofit organizations and relevant businesses consider necessary to expand, improve, or develop a food processing industry in Montana.

2 hours Staff and interested person presentation of model programs and statistics from other states on the development of value-added food enterprises; a summary of the impacts on the economy, society, and the environment of these programs and policies; and a report on how states with geography similar to Montana's add value to agricultural products.

1 to 2 hours Panel discussions on preferred options for legislation, letters of support, or other recommendations to implement what other states do to assist value-added food production or make changes in existing Montana law to improve food processing and transportation of local products.

30 minutes to 1 hr Review and revise any proposed legislation.

4. Study deliverables and end products

- Working papers on issues listed in SJR 13. Panel discussions. The final report will include recommendations for new legislation, if any, and revisions to existing statutes, if needed.
- Letters to Congressional delegation regarding issues at the federal level, if the committee directs letters to be written.
- Background report on model programs and policies along with a summary of impacts and a review of activities related to value-added production in states with geography similar to Montana's.

IV. Web Resources

Information about the Committee is available through the legislative website, under Committees, Interim, Economic Affairs. At that site, staff will post information regarding Committee activities, minutes, agendas, study reports, and relevant information. The site also provides links to the websites of agencies for which the Committee is responsible.

Legislative Services: <http://leg.state.mt.us/css/default.asp>