

**STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
INTERIM COMMITTEE 2015-2016**

Before the close of each legislative session, the House and Senate leadership appoint lawmakers to interim committees. Under section 5-5-211, Montana Code Annotated, interim committees must be bipartisan and the appointing authority shall attempt to select not less than 50% of the members from the standing State Administration Committees and at least one member from the joint subcommittee that considers the related agency budgets.

MEMBERS

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Overview of Study Assignments and Activities

Assigned Study

House Joint Resolution 21: Study of Personal Information Ownership

The Legislative Council asked State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee to undertake the study requested by the 2015 Legislature under House Joint Resolution 21, which is provided at Appendix A.

This resolution requested that examination of opportunities to expand the ownership of personal information. The main tasks were to:

- explore opportunities to provide greater power and control to people regarding information collected;
- clarify the level of ownership that individuals have concerning the collection, dissemination, and use of personal data and the methods by which individuals may exercise and enforce their rights regarding use of that information; and
- find methods for consumers to exclude their personal information property from use without severely inhibiting private sector and government functions.

The resolution listed the following types of information to be covered during the study:

- medical;
- prescription;
- consumer;
- location;
- social security number, driver's license number, state identification card number, or tribal identification card number;
- internet browsing; and
- passwords and login authentication information.

During the course of the study, the committee chose to focus primarily on consumer information collected through the internet. The committee's HJR 21 activities are summarized in Chapter 1.

Veteran Suicide Prevention

Montana's high rate of veteran suicides and examination of crisis hot lines and veteran suicide prevention programs at the federal and state level emerged as a key study issue during the last half of the interim. The committee's activities related to veteran suicide prevention are summarized in Chapter 2.

Elections

Last interim, the committee recommended a bill to generally revise election laws by streamlining and standardizes administrative deadlines for administering the election and by combining special purpose district elections with school elections. This comprehensive bill, House Bill 84, was passed, signed by the governor, and became effective on November 4, 2015. Various stakeholders, including election administrators, identified a few areas in the laws affected by HB 84 that require clarification or clean up. Therefore, the committee also worked during the interim to examine these issues and propose an election law clean up bill. The committee's activities with respect to this topic are summarized in Chapter 3.

Political Practices

The committee closely monitored the activities of the Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices. After receiving objections from 24 legislators to proposed rules concerning campaign finance regulation, the committee conducted the statutorily-required poll of all 150 legislators asking whether each of the 16 rules on which there were objections were consistent with legislative intent. The committee's activities with respect to this issue are summarized in Chapter 4.

Agency Oversight

Pursuant to sections 5-5-202, 5-5-211, 5-5-215, 5-5-228, Montana Code Annotated, the committee is required to conduct administrative rule review, program monitoring, and authorization for drafting assigned agency legislative proposals. The following agencies fall under the committee's jurisdiction for these oversight activities:

- Department of Administration;
- Public Employees' Retirement Board;
- Teachers' Retirement Board;
- State Lottery Commission;
- Department of Military Affairs;
- Board of Veterans' Affairs;
- Secretary of State's Office; and
- Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices.

The committee's agency oversight activities are summarized in Chapter 5.

Pension Oversight

The committee also has statutory oversight duties with respect to Montana's public employee retirement systems. The committee received various updates on these pension plans, which are noted in this report. However, the committee's primary work in this area is reflected in a guide to the retirement system that is regularly updated. This document is entitled *A Legislator's Guide to Montana's Public Retirement Systems 2016* and is available from the Legislative Services Division upon request and online at www.leg.mt.gov.

Executive Summary Of Recommendations

House Joint Resolution 21 - Study of Personal Information Ownership

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Veteran Suicide Prevention

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Elections

LC 30 Revise election laws to clarify or revise certain statutes related to election administration. This bill is a clean up of various statutes affected by the enactment of general revision bill HB 84 (2015).

Agency Oversight

LC 86 Eliminate a statutory requirement to provide a state information technology report to the state administration and veterans' affairs interim committee. This does not eliminate the report, which is still available to the legislature and will continue to be reported to the Legislative Finance Committee.

Staff notes on intent for the remainder of the final report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 - House Joint Resolution 21 - Study of Personal Information Ownership

Findings/recommendations?

Issue Background

Legal Theories and Models

Consumer Protection Laws

International agreements

Federal laws

State laws

Self regulation framework

Other states

Committee activities

Issues and options

Testimony

Discussion

Action

Financial Information

Federal laws

State laws

Committee activities

Issues and options

Testimony

Discussion

Action

Health Information

Federal laws

State laws

Committee activities

Issues and options

Testimony

Discussion

Action

Government Information

Federal laws

State laws

Committee activities

Issues and options

Testimony

Discussion

Action

Chapter 2 - Veteran Suicide Prevention

Findings/recommendations?

Issue Background

Committee activities

Issues and options

Testimony

Discussion

Action

Chapter 3 - Elections

Recommendation - Adopt LC0030

Bill to revise election laws to clean up of provisions affected by HB 84, 2015, which streamlined statutes and standardized deadlines related to election administration can combined special purpose district elections with school trustee elections.

Issue Background

Committee activities

Issues and options

Testimony

Discussion

Action

Chapter 4 - Political Practices

Chronology of committee activities

List/index to reports and information received

Chapter 5 - Agency Oversight

Recommendation - Adopt LC0086

Bill to eliminate the requirement for an IT report to be made to SAVA (does not eliminate the report, which will still be provided to the legislature and the Legislative Finance Committee)

Chronology of committee activities

List/index to reports and information received

Appendices

HJR 21 - Study Resolution

LC0030 - Election clean up bill

LC0086 - Eliminate IT report redundancy

Any other bill recommendations?