



# SJR 22 Joint Subcommittee on Health Care and Health Insurance

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## 57th Montana Legislature

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March 26, 2002

TO: Interested Persons  
FROM: Gordy Higgins, Legislative Services Division  
RE: SJR 22 Subcommittee meeting: April 4, 2002

**Reminder: The SJR 22 Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, April 4, 2002, in Room 137 of the Capitol, starting at 9:00 am.**

The meeting will feature a presentation by staff and tax credit working group members about the initial eligibility and design features of a tax credit that would assist individuals and small businesses purchase health benefits. The working group has met twice this month and determined that the best approach to this potential recommendation is to: (1) design a plan that they believe will meet the dual objectives of increased coverage and making coverage more affordable for those with insurance; (2) establish the potential costs of administering the tax credit; and (3) identifying various options for financing the proposed credit.

Roger Lloyd, Senior Fiscal Analyst, LFD, will present a brief description of the tobacco settlement proceeds and how those proceeds are distributed between the general fund and the constitutionally established trust fund. Included within his presentation will be fund balance and projected interest earnings. Additionally, a legal analysis on the use of the expendable portion of the interest earnings and the principal of the trust fund will be presented.

Nancy Ellery, the former Health Policy and Services Division Administrator within DPHHS, has agreed to share her perspective on the goals and objectives of the now-defunct Health Care Advisory Council. As you know, one of the specific tasks assigned by SJR 22 was determination of whether it is feasible or necessary to reestablish the Council as a way to assist legislators and others address health care policy issues. A brief statutory description of advisory councils, including the role and duties an advisory council may play is included as an enclosure.

Ms. Ellery will also provide a PowerPoint presentation on the State Planning Grant proposal that DPHHS has submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). You'll recall that HRSA makes grant money available to states to gather and analyze information related to the uninsured population to help develop policy options that will increase the number of people who have access to affordable health insurance.

The enclosed agenda describes the additional issues that will be covered at the meeting. The agenda and other information related to the Subcommittee's activities may be found on the Internet at [http://leg.mt.gov/Interim\\_Committees/Economic\\_Affairs/index.htm](http://leg.mt.gov/Interim_Committees/Economic_Affairs/index.htm). If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gordy Higgins at 406-444-3064, or by e-mail at [gohiggins@mt.gov](mailto:gohiggins@mt.gov).

Encl: April 4, 2002, meeting agenda