

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IC**  
**June 3, 2011**  
**Exhibit 3**

**Appendix A (updated 5/26/11 to reflect request for em**

**Member Issues and Possible Emerging Issues**

The following topics include suggestions from EAIC members (and staff) for issues that might be addressed in the 2011-2012 interim in addition to regular committee activities and assigned studies. Options include presentations, issue briefs, and nonstaff reports.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Possible activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Unemployment issues	Report from Dept. of Labor and Industry regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ the UI Trust Fund balance</li> <li>▸ the unemployment situation overall in Montana and on reservations in particular</li> <li>▸ the method of calculating unemployment (what is included and what is not)</li> <li>▸ an update on appeals</li> <li>▸ use of any extended benefit options</li> </ul>	
Monitoring of medical assistance programs	Follow up on HB 25 regarding medical assistance programs and responses by the four boards participating in the programs: Board of Medical Examiners, Board of Dentistry, Board of Nursing, Board of Pharmacy	
Professional and Occupational Board Licensing Oversight (beyond HB 525)	Follow up on SB 165 regarding restraint of trade for nonlicensees and how the boards are implementing the nondiscrimination directive in SB 165.	
Insurance Competition	Examine the dominance of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana in the Montana health insurance market and any related concerns.	
Insure Montana	Follow up to determine if recommendations made in a 2010 Legislative Audit are being implemented (including verification of eligibility and administrative changes).	
Monitor Medical Malpractice Insurance	Include information from Montana Medical Legal Panel filings/lawsuits and information from the State Auditor's Office on growth or decrease in insurance providers for medical insurance.	
Workplace safety	Follow up on the work of WorkSafeMT and reports from OSHA regarding private sector contacts whether for citations or recommended changes.	
Wood industry revolving loan program	Follow up on implementation of HB 669 in the 2009 session regarding a distressed wood products industry revolving loan account within the Dept. of Commerce.	
Workforce development	Reports on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ incumbent worker training</li> <li>▸ foreign labor certification program</li> </ul>	

Topic	Possible activity	Date
Workers' compensation	Follow up on changes in workers' compensation claims related to HB 334, particularly rates, how are workers being affected, implementation of the stay-at-work/return-to-work programs. Possibility of surveys, regular reports.	
Workers' compensation for firefighters under cooperative equipment agreements	Work with the Montana Association of Counties and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forestry Division to address the contract requirement that calls for work comp for users of DNRC equipment. This is an issue raised under HJR 38, which Legislative Council decided not to assign to a committee. Panel discussion?	
Housing	Reports from Board of Housing on incentives to encourage first-time home buyers, issues related to Montana cities where housing is difficult-to-rent and difficult-to-own and options for dealing with the difficulties.	
Investments	Reports from the Board of Investments, including in-state investments.	
Consumer protection	Report from the Attorney General's office on complaints related to consumer protection and areas that might crossover with agencies monitored by the EAIC (e.g. steering of automotive repair work).	
Brucellosis and the Designated Surveillance Area	Follow up on work of the 2009-2010 EAIC regarding the Board of Livestock and the Department of Livestock actions related to brucellosis in the areas near Yellowstone National Park.	
Brand Rerecord Process	Follow up on a 2010 Legislative Audit performance report on the rerecording process for brands to determine what changes the Department may be making to improve operations.	
Meat processing system	Review the number of state and federal meat inspectors available for processing plants in Montana to determine if competition is affected by limited numbers.	
Farm Bill 2012 updates	As Congress prepares to write a new farm bill, the EAIC may want to monitor proposals to determine what changes may be needed in state law, if any.	
Eminent domain concerns	The Environmental Quality Council has this topic under review, which provides an opportunity for an EQC staff update on this issue.	
Other?		