



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

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**Director**  
AMY CARLSON

DATE: September 27, 2010

TO: Members of the Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Barbara Smith and Kris Wilkinson, Fiscal Analysts

RE: Performance Measurement Update

During the June 2010 meeting of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), the report "Performance Measurement as Part of the Appropriations Process" was approved. Contained in the report was the recommendation to seek endorsement of Legislative Council on this project. On September 9, 2010, Barbara Smith presented the project to the Legislative Council and received a unanimous endorsement with the caveat that the role of the interim policy committees in the performance measurement project was to be strengthened.

### **THE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT PROJECT AND INTERIM POLICY COMMITTEES**

The caveat came as part of the discussion of how to increase participation by the policy committees in performance management.. It was agreed upon that Fiscal Division staff would work with staff from Legislative Services and develop a one page sheet of options. the group came up with the following ideas to start the process to integrate the performance measurement project into the interim policy committees.

- Utilize the branch teams as a way to plan for the integration of the LFC performance measurement project into interim policy committees. This would allow for the give and take of information between staff members to better meet the needs of the committees participating in this project.
- Provide an opportunity for the interim committees to participate in the monitoring portion of the performance measurement project at a level that fits into the priorities of the interim committee based on other assigned duties. This could be done as part of the work planning process at the beginning of each interim. Options for the interim committees could vary from the occasional written update to taking the lead on monitoring a particular agency..
- Establish clear guidelines for when a performance measurement report should be referred to the Legislative Auditor for follow up.

The staff also had ideas to strengthen the role the interim committees in the performance project. They are:

- Emphasize the need for the legislature to appoint appropriations subcommittee members to interim policy committees to assist in carrying the knowledge of the performance project to the policy committee.
- Amend the “Rules, Procedures and Guidelines for Interim Committees” to include the performance project as interim work that needs to be completed. This could be as simple as stating, “All interim committees will integrate the performance measurement project into agency oversight activities”.
- Specifically include the responsibility in statute by amending 5-5-215, MCA. This change would allow the legislature to make a clear statement that interim committees are required to review goals and objectives of the agency as part of oversight responsibilities. The performance measurement project could fill this responsibility.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Legislative staff typically fine tune the processes associated with the the performance measurement project after the 2011 session is completed. Branch staff will use the first three bullets as a starting point unless otherwise directed by the committee.

If the legislature wishes to formally strengthen the role of the interim committees in the performance project, the committee may wish to discuss the last three bullets to determine if any further action prior to the 2011 session is necessary.

cc     Legislative Council  
       Amy Carlson  
       Taryn Purdy  
       Susan Fox  
       Tori Hunthausen  
       Leanne Kurtz  
       Rachel Weiss  
       Hope Stockwell