

# Legislative Finance Committee

The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) is a permanent joint administrative committee of the Montana Legislature. Administrative committees are created by state law to manage the administrative functions of the Legislative Branch; the LFC oversees the Legislative Fiscal Division.

## Montana Code Annotated 2017

(updated Nov. 12, 2018)

Title 5. Legislative Branch

Chapter 12. Legislative Finance Act

### Part 2. Legislative Finance Committee

**5-12-201 Legislative Finance Committee.** There is a legislative finance committee which is a permanent joint committee of the legislature.

**5-12-202 Appointment of members.** (1) The legislative finance committee consists of:

- (a) four members of the senate finance and claims committee appointed by the presiding officer;
- (b) subject to 5-5-234, two members of the senate appointed at large by the committee on committees;
- (c) four members of the house of representatives appropriations committee appointed by the presiding officer; and
- (d) subject to 5-5-234, two members of the house appointed at large by the speaker.

(2) These members must be appointed before the end of each legislative session. Three members of each house, two committee members and one at-large member, must be from the majority party and the other three members appointed from that house must be from the minority party.

**5-12-203. Term -- officers -- compensation.** (1) Appointments are for 2 years, and a member of the committee shall serve until the member's term of office as a legislator ends or until a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first.

(2) The committee shall elect one of its members as presiding officer and other officers that it considers necessary.

(3) Members of the committee are entitled to receive compensation and expenses as provided in 5-2-302.

**5-12-204. Vacancies.** If a vacancy occurs on the committee when the legislature is not in session, the remaining members shall select a member of the appropriate political party and appropriate committee, as provided in 5-12-202, to complete the unexpired term. If there is a vacancy on the committee at the beginning of a legislative session because a member's term of office as a legislator has ended, a member of the same political party must be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment, no later than the 10th legislative day, to serve until a successor is appointed under 5-12-202.

**5-12-205. Powers and duties of committee.** The committee:

(1) may organize, adopt rules to govern its proceedings, and meet as often as necessary, upon the call of the presiding officer, to advise and consult with the legislative fiscal analyst;

(2) may employ and, in accordance with the rules for classification and pay adopted by the legislative council, set the salary of the legislative fiscal analyst. The legislative fiscal analyst shall serve at the pleasure of and be responsible for providing services to the committee.

(3) may exercise the investigatory powers of a standing committee under chapter 5, part 1, of this title;

(4) shall monitor the information technology policies of the department of administration with specific attention to:

- (a) identification of information technology issues likely to require future legislative attention; and
- (b) the evaluation of proposed information technology policy changes and the fiscal implications of the proposed changes and shall provide written responses to the department of administration communicating the committee's positions and concerns on proposed policy changes;
- (5) may accumulate, compile, analyze, and provide information relevant to existing or proposed legislation on how information technology can be used to impact the welfare of the state;
- (6) may prepare legislation to implement any proposed changes involving information technology; and
- (7) shall, before each regular and special legislative session involving budgetary matters, prepare recommendations to the house appropriations committee and the senate finance and claims committee on the application of certain budget issues. At a minimum, the recommendations must include procedures for the consistent application during each session of inflation factors, the allocation of fixed costs, and the personal services budget. The committee may also make recommendations on other issues of major concern in the budgeting process, such as estimating the cost of implementing particular programs based upon present law.

**5-12-206 and 5-12-207 reserved.**

**5-12-208. Grant information to be provided to legislative finance committee -- internet link required.** (1) Each state agency shall provide an annual report pursuant to subsection (2) to the legislative finance committee by October 1 of each year.

(2) The report must be provided electronically as a spreadsheet and must include the following information about each grant awarded by the state agency during the previous fiscal year:

- (a) the name of the grantee;
- (b) the address of the grantee;
- (c) the amount of the grant;
- (d) the award date of the grant;
- (e) the purpose of the grant; and
- (f) the grant period.

(3) The legislative finance committee shall post an internet link to the reports on its website under the meeting materials for the committee meeting that next follows the deadline established in subsection (1).