



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

Chief Public Defender
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MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION BRIEFING
April 13, 2012

LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATE INTERIM ACTIVITY

Law and Justice Interim Committee

- Planned meetings for 2011: June 21, September 9, and December 15 – 16
- Planned meetings for 2012: February 23 – 24, April 19 – 20, June 21 – 22, and August 31.
- Committee Membership: please see August 29 meeting handout.
- Work plan for OPD: Agency legislation, monitor SB 187, and review required reports.
- Reports: The Commission submitted its annual report to the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature on December 15, 2011.
- **Agency expects to have a one hour time slot during the June meeting to (1) provide an update on SB 187 implementation, (2) present draft legislation, and (3) Chairman Gillespie intends to deliver a response to the ACLU report.**

Legislative Finance Committee

- Planned meetings for 2011: June 10, September 29 – 30, and December 5 – 6.
- Planned meetings for 2012: March 8 – 9, June 11 – 12, mid-September and late 2012.
- Committee Membership: please see August 29 meeting handout.
- Work plan for OPD: Study attorney caseloads, impacts of additional funding added during Governor's amendments to HB 2 on caseloads, and general monitoring of expenditures including those in capital cases.
- Reports: On September 30, 2011 the agency submitted the net case, case duration, and collection/assessment reports to the LFC.

63rd Legislative Session and Budget Process (working backwards in time)

- Session begins January 7, 2013 and usually progresses through April of that year
- Governor's budget due to legislature usually in the November-December 2012 timeframe
- Commission/Agency personnel meet with the Budget Office in the fall of 2012
- Final Commission-approved budget to be submitted to the Budget Office in August/September 2012
- Draft Commission-approved budget to be submitted to the Budget Office in May 2012 followed by a meeting with the Budget Office on May 3
- The Commission moved the budget to its Budget Committee, which met twice in March.
- Agency's draft budget items presented to the Commission February 10, 2012.