



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

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MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION BRIEFING
August 8 and 27, 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, 2011 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.
- During the June meeting, the agency (1) provided an update on its implementation of SB 187, (2) presented draft legislation, and (3) Chairman Gillespie delivered a Commission-prepared response to the ACLU and American University reports.
- The Committee approved all agency legislation for drafting.

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, September 27-28 and November 13.
- Committee Membership: please see August 29, 2011 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.
- In June, the agency briefed the committee on caseloads, HB 2 expenditures, and capital case expenditures.
- Reports: On September 30, 2012 the agency must submit required reporting to the LFC: net case, case duration, and collection/assessment reports.

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.
- Final Commission-approved budget to be submitted to the Budget Office in August 2012.
- Commission and agency personnel met with the Budget Office in July 2012 to discuss legislation and budget targets.
- Draft Commission-approved budget 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.