



January 9, 2021

2021 Montana Legislature Begins

Monday, January 4th, marked the first day of the 67th Montana State Legislature and for the next 90 days our focus will be on state policy and the accompanying political debate. With a little over 3,000 bill requests, many of them considered 'placeholders' that may or may not become bill drafts, will command the attention of both legislators and concerned citizens.

Monday also marked statewide offices being sworn in. Governor Gianforte spoke on his commitment to growing the states economy, lowering taxes, improving the state's infrastructure and state spending. Austin Knudsen now serves as the Attorney General, Christi Jacobsen as Secretary of State, Troy Downing as Auditor and Elsie Arntzen is serving her second term as Superintendent of Public Instruction

Legislators were sworn in via Zoom and in-person. COVID-19 protocols will look different based on the legislator's preference and location of hearing. Montana Democrats priorities include protecting Medicaid expansion, support for families due to COVID impacts and funding infrastructure projects. Montana Republicans priorities include budget, gun rights, restrict access to abortion, public lands, private sector healthcare and broader local control for education. Both parties want to work on expanding broadband access and investing in career technical training. The 2021 session also has an eight member, legislative leadership COVID-19 response panel. They will meet on a regular basis as they navigate the session.

Remote participation is highly encouraged. Public testimony is a valuable resource for legislators. Please click [HERE](#) to submit testimony, upload documents and request to testify before the committee via Zoom.

Last week:

[HB 23](#) Revise tax lien and tax deed process
Becky Beard (R) HD 80
(H) Hearing -- (H) Taxation
01/07/2021; 8:30 AM, Rm 152

[HB 77](#) Revise motor carrier laws
Ross H Fitzgerald (R) HD 17
(H) Hearing -- (H) Transportation
01/08/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 455

[HB 142](#) Generally revise hemp laws
Joshua Kassmier (R) HD 27
(H) Introduced
01/08/2021

Upcoming Week:

[HB 109](#) Provide for primary enforcement of seatbelt laws
Frank Smith (D) HD 31
(H) Hearing -- (H) Judiciary
01/12/2021; 8:00 AM, Rm 137

[HB 2](#) General Appropriations Act
Llew Jones (R) HD 18
(H) Hearing -- (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning
01/13/2021; 8:30 AM, Rm 317B

[SB 40](#) Revise membership of the Montana Invasive Species Council
Janet Ellis (D) SD 41
(S) Hearing -- (S) Natural Resources
01/13/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 303

[SB 63](#) Establish wind and solar development ground lease for state trust lands
Duane Ankney (R) SD 20
(S) Hearing -- (S) Natural Resources
01/13/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 303

[SB 68](#) Provide homestead exemption for a revocable trust
Steve Fitzpatrick (R) SD 10
(S) Hearing -- (S) Judiciary
01/13/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 303

[SB 83](#) Revise special lien law
Brian Hoven (R) SD 13
(S) Hearing -- (S) Judiciary
01/14/2021; 9:00 AM, Rm 303

[HB 119](#) Requiring FW Commission approval of certain landowner elk licenses
Denley M Loge (R) HD 14
(H) Hearing -- (H) Fish, Wildlife and Parks
01/14/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 172

For more information:

- [MGGA Bill Preference List](#)
- [MGGA State Legislature Home Page](#)
- [House Ag Committee Hearing](#)
- [Senate Ag Committee Hearing](#)

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