
CITY OF BILLINGS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM



Aimee Grmoljez

Brad Longcake

Madison Tyson

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PROCESS

Activities taken throughout session

- Reviewed 4,495 bills introduced at the 2025 Montana Legislature and coordinated with bill lists tracked by the Montana League of Cities and Towns and other lobbyists to send lists of bills daily to the City of Billings staff to review and determine if the City should monitor or support or oppose a bill
 - Followed and monitored 120 bills
 - Testified on bills as identified by city team members
 - Weekly calls with city staff, often daily with extremely important issues
 - Coordinated several meetings in Helena with key legislators and Governor's staff
 - Monthly meeting with Billings legislators and key stake holders back in Billings
 - Coordinated with other city GA teams to leverage our voice on key issues
 - Aimee Grmoljez, Brad Longcake, and Madi Tyson had separate lead responsibilities, worked from different perspectives to achieve goals
-

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

- HB 122: Revise right-of way laws
 - HB 191: Revise crime of endangering welfare of child
 - **HB 208: Providing authority for municipalities to control unauthorized occupancy of municipal property**
 - HB 493: Establish the crime of possession of stolen firearm or ammunition
 - HB 629: Revise laws related to a proposed subdivision's connection to a public water supply or wastewater system
 - HB 642: Revise civil liability laws
 - **HB 664: Repeal numeric nutrient standards**
 - HB 764: Revise public transit laws
 - SB 1: Revise definition of "blighted area"
 - **SB 121: Revise the land use and planning act**
 - SB 398: Revise laws related to collections-related actions in municipal court
-

CITY OF BILLINGS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- PUBLIC SAFETY
 - HOUSING
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - MEDICAID EXPANSION REAUTHORIZATION
 - Passed
 - INFRASTRUCTURE
 - New Nutrient Standards - passed
 - SHIFT TAX BURDEN
 - MLCT/SELF GOVERNING POWERS
 - Land Use and Planning
 - Local Decision-Making
-

PUBLIC SAFETY

- HB 191 – City of Billings DV Attorney Ben Halvorson championed this legislation that is important for protecting children in domestic violence cases
 - SB 398 – Sponsored by Senator Yakawich, this will help Code Enforcement with abatements
 - HB 493 – Establishes the crime of possession of stolen firearm or ammunition
-

HOUSING

- HB 505 – Sponsored by Representative Mike Vinton, this law allows the Montana housing infrastructure revolving loan fund to retain its interest and income and provide for fund transfers.
 - HB 492 – Revise municipal zoning laws related to parking requirements. Generally reduces the number of spaces cities can require for dwelling units.
 - SB 213 – Revise the State Building Code to allow single stairwells in certain residential buildings up to 6 stories.
-

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- SB 1 – Revise definition of “blighted area”
- SB 3 – Require advisory committee for districts that use tax increment financing.
 - This would add a County and School District representative to Billings’ advisory boards
- HB 19 – Public hearing before bonding beyond year 15



TAXES

- SB 542
 - Changes tax rates for residential, commercial, second homes, and residential rental properties
 - If charter limits mills, must reset mills in FY 26 to generate amount assess in FY 25
 - Rates phase in over the next two years
 - SB 117
 - Reduces newly taxable to 75% of Class 4 residential and commercial
 - Authorizes a “large taxpayer reserve account” in the even of a large taxpayer ceasing operations or experiencing a significant decrease in taxable value.
-

MLCT/SELF-GOVERNING POWERS

- HB 208 – Grants municipalities the authority to regulate unauthorized camping on public property or facilities
 - Land use and planning
 - SB 121 – MLUPA Clean-up Bill
 - Zoning and subdivision applications processed under the Montana Land Use Planning Act have a 15-business day public comment period.
 - SB 133 – Impact Fees – removes 5% administration fee and limits increases
 - SB 243 – Building Heights – Sets by-right heights to 60 ft minimum in mixed-use buildings in downtown, heavy commercial, and industrial zones
 - SB 553 – Authorizing latecomer agreements, restricts ability of local governments to require land dedication for parks and recreation as condition of subdivision approval
-

LAND USE AND BUILDING

- SB 175 – Allows for streamlined public hearing notice process when revising zoning
 - SB 275 – Allows revocation of agricultural covenant on lands annexed into municipality
 - HB 629 – Increases the distance for a subdivision to connect to municipal service from 500 to 1,000 feet
 - HB 713 – Revises Municipal Zoning Laws
 - Zoning map changes will now be completed by resolution instead of ordinance.
 - Repeals valid protest
 - SB 33 – State-owned buildings subject to State Building Code Review
 - All State-owned buildings will be reviewed, permitted, and inspected by the state building department instead of the local jurisdictions
 - SB 404 – Requires reporting of Building permits for appraisal information
 - Jurisdictions are required to send copies of all issued building and electrical permits to the DOR within 90 days of issuance.
-

2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES

- Follow and monitor
 - GA team
 - City staff
 - Identify priorities
 - Provide input if needed
 - Work with legislators to help champion any City of Billings priorities
 - Work to develop plan for 2027 Legislative Session
 - Opportunity to be proactive



2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES

- Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee
 - Civil Rights Violations and Censorship by MUS
 - Criminal Justice Oversight Council
 - Economic Affairs Interim Committee
 - Education Interim Budget Committee
 - Education Interim Committee
 - Energy and Technology Interim Committee
 - Environmental Quality Council
 - General Government Interim Budget Committee
 - Health and Human Services Interim Budget Committee
 - Information Technology Planning Council
 - Law and Justice Interim Committee
 - Legislative Audit Committee
 - Legislative Consumer Committee
 - Legislative Council
 - Legislative Finance Committee
 - Local Government Interim Committee
 - Long Range Planning Interim Budget Committee
 - Modernization and Risk Analysis Committee
 - Natural Resources Interim Budget Committee
 - Public Safety Interim Budget Committee
 - Revenue Interim Committee
 - School Funding Interim Commission
 - State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee
 - State Tribal Relations Committee
 - Transition Review Committee
 - Transportation Interim Committee
 - Water Policy Interim Committee
-

INTERIM STUDY RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENTS

SJ or HJ	Rank	Points	Study Short Title	Committee
HJ 61	1	1902	Study of the property insurance market in Montana	Economic Affairs Interim Committee
HJ 42	2	1660	Interim study on procurement, no-bid contracts, and transparency on no-bid purchases	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee
HJ 40	3	1653	Interim study on transferring fiscal note production from executive branch to legislative branch	Legislative Finance Committee
SJ 12	4	1548	Interim study on energy transmission	Energy and Technology Interim Committee
SJ 21	5	1543	Interim study on interstate power grid development	Energy and Technology Interim Committee
SJ 28	6	1412	Interim study on the legislature's ethics processes	Legislative Council
HJ 62	7	1321	Study resolution on wildfire safety	Environmental Quality Council
HJ 23	8	1306	Interim study on youth court laws	Law and Justice Interim Committee
HJ 44	9	1274	Interim study of endocrine-disrupting chemicals and water quality	Water Policy Interim Committee
HJ 53	10	1273	Request an interim study on school safety	Education Interim Committee
HJ 26	11	1228	Study guardianships and conservatorships	Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee
HJ 30	12	1206	Study resolution on incentivizing housing density and affordability	Local Government Interim Committee
HJ 04	13	1205	Interim study on artificial intelligence	Energy and Technology Interim Committee
HJ 28	14	1135	Interim study to identify and improve access to federal grant opportunities for the state of Montana, tribal governments, and local government entities	Local Government Interim Committee
HJ 74	15	1131	Study analyzing water re-use in the state	Water Policy Interim Committee
SJ 33	16	1035	Interim study of the prescription drug supply chain	Economic Affairs Interim Committee

INTERIM STUDY RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENTS (CONT.)

HJ 48	17	1033	Interim study on moving the date of the primary election	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee
SJ 42	18	937	Interim study of noxious weed control	Environmental Quality Council
SJ 35	19	936	Interim study of voter list maintenance and integrity	State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee
SJ 48	20	921	Interim study of the public health and safety impacts of marijuana legalization	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
SJ 11	21	903	Interim study on farmer's markets and food systems	Economic Affairs Interim Committee
SJ 13	22	880	Study resolution for emergency medical services	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
SJ 08	23	868	Request interim study of property tax special districts	Revenue Interim Committee
HJ 47	24	863	Study resolution on local government entity cooperation	Local Government Interim Committee
HJ 56	25	826	Study of search and rescue services and funding	Law and Justice Interim Committee
SJ 37	26	820	Interim survey of behavioral health services in Montana	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
SJ 19	27	789	Joint resolution to study public transportation	Transportation Interim Committee
HJ 50	28	774	Study of uniform common interest ownership laws	Local Government Interim Committee
SJ 29	29	763	Interim study resolution on coordinating efforts between OPI and DPHHS in addressing the impacts on children of prenatal exposure to meth and fentanyl	Children, Families, and Health, and Human Services Committee
HJ 52	30	731	Interim study on Montana cattle industry	Economic Affairs Interim Committee
HJ 45	31	701	Interim study on the impact collateral consequences have on criminal record expungement	Criminal Justice Oversight Council
HJ 27	32	687	Interim study on laws regarding morticians and funeral services	Economic Affairs Interim Committee
HJ 32	33	666	Interim study of advanced investigator qualifications for law enforcement	Law and Justice Interim Committee
HJ 55	34	660	Study on property management licensing and practice	Economic Affairs Interim Committee
SJ 49	35	589	Study of youth and family behavioral health prevention	Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee
SJ 36	36	316	Study dependent neglect standards for prosecutors	Criminal Justice Oversight Council