



Montana Legislative Services Division
Office of Research and Policy Analysis

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August 28, 2018

TO: Legislative Council
FR: Legislative Services Division, staff
RE: 2019 House Standing Committees

Chairman Thomas and Council members,

During the Legislative Council's August 2018 meeting in Lewistown, council members discussed the potential of changing the House Health and Human Services Committee to a Class I committee. The committee is currently a Class II committee that meets M,W,F in Room 152.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the committee was assigned 103 bills.

While Class I committees meet at 8 a.m. five days a week, the rules could be amended to accommodate House Human Services meeting M-F at 3 p.m.

Legislative Services staff visited with Chief Clerk of the House Lindsey Vroegindewey about the potential change in schedule. The change would not create a scheduling problem, and Ms. Vroegindewey is supportive of the change.

If the Legislative Council pursues a recommendation to the Rules Committee to facilitate the scheduling change, Human Services could meet in Room 152 daily at 3 p.m.; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks could meet in Room 172 Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m.; and Local Government could meet Tuesday, Thursday at 3 p.m. in Room 472. Education would continue to meet M,W,F at 3 p.m. in Room 137, and House Agriculture in the same room on Tuesday, Thursday.

If the change is made, staff would respectfully request that the membership of House Local Government be capped at 19 members to ensure adequate seating and meeting space in Room 472. In 2017, House Local Government included 23 members. In 2015, House Local Government included 20 members; and in 2013 House Local Government included 18 members.

Legislative staff will be available at the November meeting to answer any additional questions about the proposed change.

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