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BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING  
STATE OF MONTANA



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**'29B – Memo 2**  
**1 attachment**

TO: Agency Directors

FROM: Ryan Osmundson, Budget Director  
Anita Milanovich, General Counsel  
Rachel Green, Chief Policy Advisor

Date: February 17, 2026

Subject: **Legislation Proposals for the 2027 Legislative Session**

A. Proposed Legislation -- Deadline no later than May 6, 2026

This memo describes the process for agencies to submit legislative proposals in preparation for the 2027 Legislative Session.

This cycle, OBPP and the Governor's Office are rolling out an online system for submittal of legislative proposals. Please complete a submission for EACH piece of proposed legislation, recognizing that submittals will be public documents used by both the executive and legislative branch. Attachment 1 includes brief instructions on how to enter a proposal. The system is quite intuitive. The system can be found online at: <http://svcint.mt.gov/govinfo/approvals/agencylegislationrequests/agency/>.

Agencies should submit *all legislative proposals (concepts)* by May 6. If interim committees plan to review proposed legislation near or before May 6, then please submit proposals sooner – please give a 4-week window for review by OBPP and the Governor's Office. Complete bill drafts of the legislation at this point. If there is a draft on any proposal, it can be submitted along with the submittal.

Do not send biennial appropriation bills at this time. Examples include HB 5 for long-range building or HB 9 for cultural and aesthetic grants. Please send final drafts of these bills directly to Amy Sassano as HB XX whenever they are ready.

After OBPP and the Governor's staff review the legislative proposals, the agencies will be notified electronically when each proposal has been reviewed.

The notification will come from the new online system on each legislative request. Statuses will be approved, conditionally approved, and not approved. Conditionally approved may have any number of reasons including:

- the need for more information
- the need to coordinate with other agencies
- interest of the Governor in requesting the bill
- or other actions

Call Brandy Itzel at 444-3616 to schedule agency conferences, if needed. The meetings will enable follow-up and final decisions on agency proposals.

Approved and conditionally approved bills may proceed to be presented to interim committees.

## B. Final Drafts of Legislation -- Deadline September 13, 2026

Agencies may begin submitting bill drafts at any time following the receipt of an approval or conditional approval but no later than September 13, 2026.

Note: At the same time the agency submits the final draft of the bill, agencies will be required to submit a draft fiscal note for the bill to OBPP (if applicable).

OBPP and Governor's policy and legal staff will review the submitted bill drafts and seek more information as needed. As approved bills are finalized, OBPP will submit the final drafts to the assigned LSD drafter and the agency will be notified when this occurs. These drafts must be submitted by OBPP to the LSD no later than November 1, 2026 -- excluding budget bills (HB 2 – 15).

If an agency has legislation that is not requested through an interim legislative committee, OBPP and the Governor's Office staff will work with the agency to secure a requester and a sponsor for the legislation. To be pre-introduced, the bill draft must still be finalized and have a sponsor by December 15, 2026. Otherwise, the bill will be introduced in accordance with bill introduction rules of the House or Senate.

If you have any questions related to the new online system or the status of legislative proposals, you can contact Amy Sassano or Rachel Green.