



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

Room 110 Capitol Building \* P.O. Box 201711 \* Helena, MT 59620-1711 \* (406) 444-2986 \* FAX (406) 444-3036

**Director**  
AMY CARLSON

DATE: December 8, 2015

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Susie Lindsay, Communications Supervisor  
Sam Schaefer, Fiscal Analyst II

RE: HJ 27: Statutory Appropriations Study

The December LFC meeting kickoffs the interim statutory appropriations study. Over the course of the next nine months, the LFD staff will update the previous study completed in November 2011. Staff will also complete a training document for legislators and legislative staff on structure, format and best use for statutory appropriations. As part of that training, we will develop a process to meet with and communicate information to legislators during the legislative session. This meeting we include a spreadsheet that identifies current statutory appropriations, provides FYE 2015 actuals, and identifies sunset dates.

For the March meeting, LFD staff will analyze the guidelines outlined in 17-1-508(2), MCA and provide an update on the findings. By June, Ms. Lindsay will propose a new process for review of proposed statutory appropriations during the regular legislative session and communicating the results of those reviews to legislators. At the September meeting, Mr. Schaefer will provide statutory appropriation actuals for FYE 2016. He will also discuss any identified areas of concern or potential changes in statutory appropriation legislation, if necessary. Additionally in September, Ms. Lindsay will supply a training guide to legislators and legislative staff on the use, format and structure of statutory appropriations.