THE MONTANA EXPERIENCE

BILL DRAFTING SYSTEMS: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

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MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
BACKGROUND

MONTANA LEGISLATURE

• Biennial sessions – 90 days
• 2,350+ bill draft requests per session
• 1,200+ bills/resolutions introduced

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

• Nonpartisan, fulltime staff
• 20 drafters (attorney and nonattorney drafters)
• 3 editors; 1 fulltime proofreader; up to 3 document processing staff
• 13 OLIS staff involved in some capacity
SESSIONS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- Why SSR in general
- Why BDR in specific
- Why only BDR, not drafting too
- Contractor
- Timelines in general
JOINT IT & DRAFTING STAFF EFFORTS

WRITE
and issue an RFP for system replacements

REVIEW
and document existing bill request & drafting processes and technology

DESIGN
new system and review the design

TEST
the new system and revise

TRAIN
staff and launch the new system

MAINTAIN
and improve system during session
LESSONS LEARNED

- Collaborate Early and Often
- Budget the Time to Do It Right
- Make Communication Easy
COLLABORATE EARLY AND OFTEN
BUDGET THE TIME TO DO IT RIGHT

THE MONTANA EXPERIENCE
MAKE COMMUNICATION EASY
For more information, contact:

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