

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Dennis Himmelberger, on February 16, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Duane Ankney, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Hal Jacobson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Gary Branae (D)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)
Rep. William J. Jones (R)
Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)
Rep. Alan Olson (R)
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Debby Barrett
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger
Rep. Scott Sales

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dee Barfknecht, Committee Secretary
Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: SB 15, HB 663, HB 576, HB 679, HB 659

HEARING ON SB 15

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:05:06 Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D), SD 13, opened the hearing on SB 15, Prohibit picketing at funerals.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:00 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
00:07:39 Colonel Jim Jacobsen, U.S. Army Retired, Legislative Chairman for the American Legion
00:12:32 Mervin Gunderson, Commander, American Legion of Montana
[EXHIBIT\(sth35a01\)](#)
00:15:10 Brad Volk, Past Captain of the Patriot Riders
00:17:38 Bill Furois, President of the Montana Disabled American Veterans
00:20:00 Joe Foster, National Association of Veterans Affairs
00:21:32 Carl Bartman, Zone Commander, American Legion
00:23:03 Suzanne Bartman, Chaplin for American Legion Auxiliary

Opponents' Testimony:

00:25:32 Scott Crichton, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana
[EXHIBIT\(sth35a02\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(sth35a03\)](#)
00:30:45 John Barrows, Montana Newspaper Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:33:45 Rep. Wilmer
00:34:43 Mr. Crichton
00:36:22 Rep. Wilmer
00:36:27 Mr. Crichton
00:36:31 Rep. Wilmer
00:36:36 Mr. Crichton

Closing by Sponsor:

00:41:22 Senator Tropila
[EXHIBIT\(sth35a04\)](#)

00:46:09 Break
00:55:14 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 576

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:55:59 Rep. Mary Caferro (D), HD 80, opened the hearing on HB 576, Preference for locating state offices in downtown area.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:59:09 Ken Toole
01:03:38 Alec Hanson, Montana League of Cities and Towns
01:06:29 Tim Davis, Montana Smart Growth Coalition
01:08:25 Alan Nicholson, Helena Developer
01:13:07 Chere Jiusto, Executive Director, Montana Preservationalliance

Opponents' Testimony:

01:16:50 Andy Skinner
[**EXHIBIT**](#)(sth35a05)
01:22:41 William Spilker

Informational Testimony:

01:29:25 Alan Nicholson

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:30:02 Rep. Phillips
01:31:24 Mr. Nicholson
01:32:02 Rep. Phillips
01:32:30 Mr. Skinner
01:33:15 Rep. Phillips
01:35:20 Rep. Ingraham
01:35:49 Mr. Toole
01:36:32 Rep. Ingraham
01:36:53 Mr. Toole
01:38:57 Rep. Dickenson
01:39:37 Rep. Caferro
01:41:43 Rep. Wilmer
01:42:00 Mr. Davis
01:43:10 Rep. Wilmer
01:43:21 Mr. Davis

01:45:03 Rep. Wilmer
01:45:34 Mr. Davis

Closing by Sponsor:

01:45:49 Rep. Caferro

01:55:04 Break
02:05:37 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 679

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:05:43 Rep. Scott Sales (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB
679, Revise leave law for newly hired public employees.
[EXHIBIT\(sth35a06\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(sth35a07\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

02:11:17 Janet Kelly, Director, Department of Administration
02:14:38 Tom Schneider, Montana Public Employees Association
02:18:45 Freida Houser, Montana University System
02:21:12 Tom Burgess, Field Consultant, Montana Education
Association, Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA/MFT)

Informational Testimony:

02:22:04 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of
Counties

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:22:50 Rep. Phillips
02:23:23 Rep. Sales
02:23:28 Rep. Ingraham
02:24:25 Ms. Kelly
02:25:01 Randy Morris, Administrator, State Personnel Division

Closing by Sponsor:

02:26:31 Rep. Sales

02:36:07 Break
02:40:26 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 663

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:40:39 Rep. Dan Villa (D), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB
663, County courthouse restoration act.

EXHIBIT(sth35a08)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:42:57 Alec Hanson, Montana League of Cities and Towns
02:45:34 Chere Jiusto, Executive Director, Montana
Preservational Alliance
02:50:40 Phil Hohenlohe, Attorney, State Advocacy Program
02:54:16 Sheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

02:57:04 Mark Baumler, State Historic Preservation Officer,
Montana Historical Society

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:57:49 Rep. Ingraham
02:58:45 Mr. Baumler
02:58:50 Rep. Ingraham
02:59:17 Mr. Baumler
02:59:57 Rep. Ingraham
03:01:18 Mr. Baumler
03:02:26 Rep. Ingraham
03:02:35 Mr. Baumler
03:02:49 Rep. Malcolm
03:03:48 Mr. Baumler

Closing by Sponsor:

03:04:52 Rep. Villa

HEARING ON HB 659

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

03:07:11 Rep. George Everett (R), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 659, Revise statute of limitations on PSC orders.

[EXHIBIT\(sth35a09\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

03:07:59 Brad Molnar, Public Service Commissioner District 2

[EXHIBIT\(sth35a10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth35a11\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth35a12\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

03:17:06 Greg Jergeson, Chairman of the Montana Public Commission

03:24:51 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

03:29:21 Rep. Everett

Additional Exhibits:

Document Pertaining to HB 576, Hearing Date 02/16/07

[EXHIBIT\(sth35a13\)](#)

ADJOURNMENT

03:30:51 Adjournment

REP. DENNIS HIMMELBERGER, Chairman

DEE BARFKNECHT, Secretary

DH/db

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([sth35aad.pdf](#))