

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on January 24, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, 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 & Date Posted: SB 234, 1/15/2007; SB 240,
1/15/2007; SB 211, 1/15/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:00:38 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 234

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:05 **SEN. CAROL WILLIAMS (D), SD 46**, opened the hearing on **SB 234**, Establish fair access to basic property and casualty insurance.

Proponents:

00:05:09 Pat Driscoll, Chief Legal Counsel, Montana State Auditor's Office

EXHIBIT (bus16a01)

00:09:12 Barbara Van Der Mars, Policyholder, State Auditor's Office

00:12:12 Carol Roy, Acting Deputy, State Auditor's Office

EXHIBIT (bus16a02)

Opponents:

00:15:00 Larry Kibbee, Property Casualty Insurance

00:22:02 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association (AIA)

00:32:43 Frank Cote, Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Company

00:41:44 John Metropoulos, Farmers Insurance Group

00:44:35 Roger McGlenn, Independent Insurance Agents Association of Montana

00:49:59 Don Allen, Association of Insurance Advisors

00:51:33 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance

00:54:29 Glenn Oppel, Montana Association of Realtors

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:55:31 Sen. Esp to Sen. Williams

Closing by Sponsor:

00:57:38 Sen. Williams

Discussion:

00:58:29 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 240

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:02:16 **SEN. CHRISTINE KAUFMANN (D), SD 41**, opened the hearing on **SB 240**, Code of corporate responsibility.

Proponents:

01:06:53 Sedron Jones, Volunteer for Montanans Accountability

01:11:56 Brian Kahn, Agriculture Heritage Association

01:13:58 Don Judge, Teamsters Local 190

01:16:14 Terry Kendrick, Policy Institute

01:17:40 Rev Brady Vardemann, Montana Association of Churches

01:21:33 Erin Thompson, Self

Opponents:

01:22:54 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

01:26:02 Ronda Wiggers, Helena and Great Falls Chambers of Commerce

01:28:18 Amy Grmoliez, Montana Bankers Association

01:29:32 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

01:30:36 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

01:32:04 Shirley Wierheimer, Certified Public Accountant

EXHIBIT (bus16a03)

01:34:48 Kevin Wayne Smith, Self

01:35:46 Gayle Abercrombie, Montana Contractors Association

01:36:55 Carl Schweitzer, Kalispell and Libby Chambers of
Commerce

01:37:09 Bruce Spencer, Montana Automobile Dealers Association

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:37:48 Sen. Balyeat to Brian Kahn, Agriculture Heritage
Association

01:40:35 Sen. Balyeat to Terry Kendrick, Policy Institute

01:42:51 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Kaufmann

01:47:07 Sen. Jackson to Sen. Kaufmann

01:49:46 Sen. Tropila to Sen. Kaufmann

Closing by Sponsor:

01:50:11 Sen. Kaufmann

01:52:20 Break

02:06:08 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 211

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:07:44 **SEN. LANE LARSON (D), SD 22**, opened the hearing on **SB
211**, Revise electrical licensing laws.

Proponents:

02:09:26 Jack Fisher, President of Electrical Board (DLI)

02:09:52 Rick Hutchinson, Vice President of Electrical Board
(DLI)

02:10:21 Keith Allen, International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Local 233

02:11:00 Margaret Morgan, Greater Montana Independent Electrical
Contractors

EXHIBIT (bus16a04)

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony:

02:13:19 Todd Bouchert, Executive Officer, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

02:13:47 Mary Mackie, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:14:18 Sen. Squires to Sen. Larson

02:16:02 Sen. Squires to Mary Mackie, DEQ

02:17:48 Sen. Tropila to Sen. Larson

02:18:04 Sen. Cocchiarella to Margaret Morgan, Greater Montana Independent Electrical Contractors

02:18:22 Sen. Balyeat to Todd Bouchert, DLI

02:19:47 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:20:12 Sen. Cocchiarella to Todd Bouchert, DLI

02:20:38 Pat Murdo, LSD

EXHIBIT (bus16a05)

02:21:28 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Cocchiarella

02:22:43 Sen. Balyeat to Todd Bouchert, DLI

02:24:30 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Larson

Closing by Sponsor:

02:25:56 Sen. Larson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:36 a.m.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

VC/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus16aad.pdf](#))