

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SQUIRES**, on January 31, 2007  
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Carolyn Squires, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)  
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Larry Jent (D)  
Sen. Rick Laible (R)  
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)  
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)  
Sen. Jim Shockley (R)  
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Dave Bohyer, Legislative Branch  
Lois O'Connor, Committee Secretary

**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 374, 1/22/2007; SB 269, 1/22/07;  
SB 273, 1/22/2007; SB 267,  
1/22/2007; SB 280, 1/22/2007; SB  
290, 1/22/2007;  
Executive Action: None.

00:00:10

**HEARING ON SB 374**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:20 **SEN. MIKE COONEY (D), SD 40**, opened the hearing on **SB 374**, Power of attorney to request absentee ballot for overseas military personnel.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:02:49 Tom Stockton, representing son Lance Corporal Tyler Stockton

**EXHIBIT(sts21a01)**

00:07:44 Jim Jacobsen, Colonel, American Legion of Montana

00:08:44 Becky Stockton

00:08:55 Robert Throssell, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

00:09:52 Sen. Joe Tropila, SD 13

00:10:39 Marissa Stockton

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:**

00:11:06 Elaine Graveley, Election Deputy, Office of the Honorable Secretary of State

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:13:11 Sen. Jim Shockley to Sen. Cooney

00:15:15 Sen. Shockley to Bonnie Ramey, Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder

00:18:07 Sen. Joe Balyeat to Sen. Cooney

00:22:23 Sen. Balyeat to Ms. Graveley, Secretary of State's Office

00:23:09 Sen. Rick Laible to Ms. Graveley

00:23:42 Sen. Dave Lewis to Sen. Cooney

00:25:30 Sen. Carolyn Squires

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:25:45 Sen. Cooney closed on SB 374.

**HEARING ON SB 269**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:28:27 **SEN. LANE LARSON (D)**, **SD 22**, opened the hearing on **SB 269**, Revise standards for recorded documents.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:29:58 Russ Gowen, President, Montana Land and Title Association (MLTA)

00:31:35 Robert Throssell, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

00:33:31 Steve Turkiewicz, Montana Bankers Association

00:33:53 Janet Harper, Montana Credit Union Network

00:35:00 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

00:35:19 Bonnie Ramey, Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:36:00 Sen. Tropila

00:36:34 Sen. Squires to Sen. Larson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:36:59 Sen. Larson closed on SB 269.

**HEARING ON SB 273**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:37:59 **SEN. LARRY JENT (D), SD 32**, opened the hearing on **SB 273**, Revise peace officers standards and training council.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:41:24 Mike Batista, Criminal Investigation Unit, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

00:45:32 Sen. Jent

00:45:46 Ann Brodsky, Legal Counsel, The Honorable Governor Brian Schweitzer

**EXHIBIT(sts21a02)**

00:48:36 David Bohyer, Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

00:52:54 Lois Menzies, Court Administrator, Montana Supreme Court (Requested to be listed as an informational witness)

00:55:50 Mark Guy, Montana Police Protective Association

00:56:15 Mike Weber, Montana County Attorney's Association (MCAA)

**EXHIBIT(sts21a03)**

00:56:50 Mark Tymrak, Montana Chiefs of Police

00:57:19 Jim Oberhoffer, Undersheriff of Gallatin County

00:59:53 Allen Hulse, Montana Municipal Insurance Association (MMIA)

01:00:30 Jim Oppedahl

**EXHIBIT(sts21a04)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:04:40 Sen. Laible to Sen. Jent rereferred to Mr. Batista, DOJ

01:05:57 Sen. Shockley to Sen. Jent

01:06:32 Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella to Sen. Jent

01:11:26 Ms. Brodsky, Office of the Governor

01:13:18 Sen. Lewis to Sen. Jent rereferred to Jim Smith,  
Montana Peace Officers Association

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:14:11 Sen. Jent closed on SB 273.

**HEARING ON SB 267**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:16:28 **SEN. JIM SHOCKLEY (R), SD 45**, opened the hearing on **SB 267**, Revise redistricting constitutional provision for presiding officer.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:18:30 Sen. Jesse Laslovich to Sen. Shockley

01:19:10 Sen. Tropila to Sen. Shockley

01:19:25 Sen. Squires to Sen. Shockley

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:20:17 Sen. Shockley closed on SB 267.

**HEARING ON SB 280**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:21:02 **SEN. JOE BALLYEAT (R), SD 34**, opened the hearing on **SB 280**, Cross-party candidate endorsement.

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts21a05)

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts21a06)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:31:21 Terry Kendrick

01:33:47 Jacquie Helt, H-E-R-E-UNITE

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:35:45 Sen. Balyeat closed on SB 280.

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts21a07)

**HEARING ON SB 290**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:38:32 **SEN. RICK LAIBLE (R), SD 44**, opened the hearing on **SB 290**, Implement national popular vote act.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:46:48 Barry Fadem, President, National Popular Vote

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts21a08)

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts21a09)

01:59:18 Mona Jamison

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:02:05 Sen. Balyeat to Mr. Fadem, National Popular Vote

02:08:48 Sen. Essmann to Mr. Fadem, National Popular Vote

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:16:41 Sen. Laible closed on SB 290.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:43 P.M.

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SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES, Chairman

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LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([sts21aad.pdf](#))**