

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN TRUDI SCHMIDT**, on April 10, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Trudi Schmidt, Chairman (D)
Sen. Keith Bales (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Greg Lind (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. Dan Weinberg (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, 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: HB 343, 4/4/2007; HB 371, 4/4/2007;
HB 406, 4/4/2007; HB 519, 4/4/2007;
HB 512, 4/4/2007; HB 539, 4/4/2007;
HB 273, 4/4/2007; HB 298, 4/4/2007
Executive Action: Committee Bill

00:00:00 Reconvene

00:06:22 Sen. Gallus

00:06:53 Sen. Jim Shockley, SD 45

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON COMMITTEE BILL

00:10:20 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. GALLUS moved that a COMMITTEE BILL to implement a provision for Public Defenders BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. BALES, SEN. COBB and SEN. STAPLETON voted by proxy. SEN. COONEY and SEN. WEINBERG were excused.

HEARING ON HB 343

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:12:50 REP. DIANE RICE (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 343, Appropriation for legislative legal action in wolf delisting lawsuit.

EXHIBIT(fcs75b01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:18:31 Gary Marbut, Montana Shooting Sports Association

EXHIBIT(fcs75b02)

00:23:31 Travis Barker, Augusta guest ranch owner

00:25:37 William Hoppe, North Yellowstone Outfitters

00:27:41 Hank Fabich, Former Game warden

EXHIBIT(fcs75b03)

00:32:34 Robert T. Fanning Jr., Friends of the Yellowstone Elk Herd

00:35:48 Allen Schallenberger, Self

EXHIBIT (fcs75b04)

00:38:03 Doug Nulle, Self

00:40:30 Tim Bowers, Gallatin Outfitters Association

00:41:17 Larry Garst, Augusta

00:42:02 Chuck Blixruth, Dude ranch owner, Choteau

00:43:22 Ray Mills, Outfitter

00:44:11 David Hovde, Choteau

00:44:36 Jay Baulmer, Montana Stockgrowers Association

00:45:24 Carla Johnson, Montana Cattlemen's Association

Opponents' Testimony:

00:45:42 Pam Bucy, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice (DOJ)

00:49:46 Mike Volesky, Governor's Office

00:53:33 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony:

00:55:46 Chris Smith, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

EXHIBIT (fcs75b05)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:57:26 Sen. Bales to Pam Bucy, DOJ

00:58:07 Sen. Bales to Chris Smith, FWP

00:59:51 Sen. Stapleton to Pam Bucy, DOJ

Closing by Sponsor:

01:05:08 Rep. Rice

HEARING ON HB 371

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:09:39 REP. JON SONJU (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 371, Manufacturing extension center program enhancement.

EXHIBIT(fcs75b06)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:15:11 Joe Unterreiner, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, and Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

01:17:48 Carl Schweitzer, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, and for Charles Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce

01:19:23 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

01:19:44 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association, and for Ellen Engstedt, Montana Wood Products' Association

01:20:25 Joe Mazurek, Semitool, Inc.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

01:20:52 Ingrid Childress, Workforce Services Division, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:21:30 Sen. Barkus to Ingrid Childress, DLI

01:24:35 Sen. Barkus to Rep. Dave Kasten, HD 30

01:25:31 Sen. Barkus to Rep. Sonju

01:27:21 Sen. Laible to Rep. Sonju

01:29:56 Sen. Laible to Joe Unterreiner, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, and Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

Closing by Sponsor:

01:32:13 Rep. Sonju

HEARING ON HB 406

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:34:24 **REP. EDITH CLARK (R), HD 28**, opened the hearing on **HB 406**, Montana community health center support.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:36:49 Kim Mansch, Partnership Health Center

01:39:32 Jim Morton, Human Resource Council for Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties

01:40:48 Rep. William Jones, HD 9

01:41:22 Chuck Hunter, Montana Primary Care Association

EXHIBIT(fcs75b07)

01:47:51 Carl Schweitzer, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

EXHIBIT(fcs75b08)

01:48:52 Mary McCue, Montana Dental Association

01:49:46 Steve Yeakel, Montana Council for Maternal and Child Health

01:50:16 Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

01:50:53 Jackie Boyle, AARP Montana

01:51:05 Linda Stoll, Montana's Local Public Health Officers

01:51:38 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana (BC/BS)

01:52:35 Sheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties

01:53:04 Olivia Riutta, Working for Equity and Economic Liberation (WEEL)

01:53:47 Anita Rossman, Montana Advocacy Program

01:54:00 Steve Yeakel, and for Jani McCall, Billings Clinic

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

01:54:30 Rep. Clark

HEARING ON HB 519

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:55:25 REP. DAVE KASTEN (R), HD 30, opened the hearing on HB 519, Fund Montana cowboy hall of fame.

EXHIBIT(fcs75b09)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:58:55 Sen. Frank Smith, SD 16

EXHIBIT(fcs75b10)

02:02:02 Boone Whitmer, Board of Directors, Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame

EXHIBIT(fcs75b11)

02:07:22 Gary MacDonald, Roosevelt County Commissioner, and Vice-President of Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center

02:08:52 George Donnelly, Trustee, Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

02:11:04 Rep. Kasten

HEARING ON HB 512

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:14:23 **REP. LLEW JONES (R), HD 27**, opened the hearing on **HB 512**, Fund certain local government infrastructure projects.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:18:33 David Coey, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

EXHIBIT (fcs75b12)

EXHIBIT (fcs75b13)

02:28:36 Rep. Dave Kasten, HD 30

02:31:08 Sen. Ken Hansen, SD 17

02:32:05 J.D. Lynch, Butte Silverbow County

02:32:27 Mike McGinley, County Commissioner

02:33:48 Sheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

02:34:48 Gordon Morris, Lewis and Clark County Commissioners

02:35:51 Dave Aune, Grat West Engineering

02:36:44 John Prinkki, MACo, and Carbon County Commissioners

02:37:54 Steve Wade, Northcentral Regional Water Authority, and Prairie Regional Water Authority

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

02:38:44 Cathy Duncan, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

02:40:06 Ray Beck, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:40:52 Sen. Hawks to Cathy Duncan, LFD

02:42:09 Sen. Brueggeman to Jim Edgcomb, Manager of Treasure
State Endowment Program, Department of Commerce

02:44:30 Sen. Lewis to David Coey, DNRC

02:45:57 Sen. Schmidt to David Coey, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

02:48:41 Rep. Jones

HEARING ON HB 539

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:53:10 **REP. GEORGE GROESBECK (D), HD 74**, opened the hearing on
HB 539, Appropriate funds for Butte-Silver Bow cultural
development.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:55:01 Marko Lucich, Butte-Silver Bow County Visitors' Bureau,
Butte Chamber of Commerce

02:55:42 Paul Babb, CEO, Butte-Silver Bow

02:56:14 George Everett, Executive Director, Main Street Uptown
Butte

02:58:28 Glenn Bodich, Executive Director, Butte-Silver Bow Arts
Foundation

03:01:09 J.D. Lynch, Butte-Silver Bow

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:02:00 Sen. Lewis

Closing by Sponsor:

03:02:21 Rep. Groesbeck

HEARING ON HB 273

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

03:03:46 **REP. SCOTT MENDENHALL (R), HD 77**, opened the hearing on **HB 273**, Revise motor vehicle registration laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

03:05:29 Ronda Wiggers, County Treasurers' Association

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

03:06:56 Brenda Nordlund, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:11:46 Sen. Laible to Brenda Nordlund, DOJ

03:12:56 Sen. Laible to Rep. Mendenhall

03:14:45 Sen. Laible to Brenda Nordlund, DOJ

03:16:14 Sen. Hawks to Rep. Mendenhall

Closing by Sponsor:

03:17:20 Rep. Mendenhall

HEARING ON HB 298

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

03:17:55 **REP. CYNTHIA HINER (D), HD 85**, opened the hearing on **HB 298**, Reauthorize natural resource damages program.

EXHIBIT(fcs75b14)

Proponents' Testimony:

03:20:06 Mike McGrath, Attorney General, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:22:15 Sen. Lewis to Mike McGrath, DOJ

03:23:07 Sen. Laible to Mike McGrath, DOJ

03:24:01 Sen. Gallus to Mike McGrath, DOJ

Closing by Sponsor:

03:26:34 Rep. Hiner

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:00 P.M.

SEN. TRUDI SCHMIDT, Chairman

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

TS/pg

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([fcs75bad.pdf](#))