

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Vice Chairwoman Dickenson, on January 20, 2009 at 8:03 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol. Chairman Himmelberger turned the chair over to Vice Chairwoman Dickenson for the day.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger, Chairman (R)
Rep. Sue Dickenson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Jesse O'Hara, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Russell Bean (R)
Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)
Rep. Joel Boniek (R)
Rep. Frosty Boss Ribs (D)
Rep. Dee Brown (R)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Sue Malek (D)
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Ted Washburn (R)
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Sheri Heffelfinger, Legislative Branch
Marshall McEwen, 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: HB 142, HB 147, HB 164, HB 170,
HB 184
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 164

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:41 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on
HB 164, Extend fire suppression committee.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:09 Pat McKelvey, Board Member, Fire Safe Montana

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:08:06 Rep. Hands
00:08:30 Rep. Vincent
00:10:14 Rep. Hands
00:10:32 Rep. Vincent
00:11:12 Rep. Van Dyk
00:11:25 Rep. Vincent
00:11:29 Rep. Van Dyk
00:11:59 Rep. Vincent
00:13:28 Rep. Van Dyk
00:13:45 Rep. Vincent
00:13:49 Rep. Phillips
00:14:19 Rep. Vincent
00:15:15 Rep. Phillips
00:16:01 Rep. Vincent
00:18:07 Rep. Wilmer
00:19:16 Rep. Vincent
00:20:28 Rep. Hands
00:20:58 Rep. Vincent
00:22:22 Rep. Van Dyk
00:22:55 Rep. Vincent
00:23:59 Rep. Wilmer
00:24:37 Rep. Vincent
00:25:20 Rep. Hendrick
00:26:12 Rep. Vincent
00:26:23 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
00:27:02 Rep. Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

00:27:46 Rep. Vincent
00:29:32 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson

HEARING ON HB 142

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:29:59 Rep. Franke Wilmer (D), HD 64, opened the hearing on **HB 142**, Eliminate automatic trigger that decreases employer contribution.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:31:31 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)
00:32:44 Tom Bilodeau, MEA-MFT
00:33:25 Tom Schneider, Montana Public Employees Association (MPEA)
00:34:19 Roxanne Minnehan, Executive Director, Montana Public Employees' Retirement Administration

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:35:12 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:36:17 Rep. Himmelberger
00:37:00 Mr. Ewer
00:39:37 Rep. Himmelberger
00:41:37 Mr. Ewer
00:44:01 Vice Chairwomen Dickenson recognized the 4-H children from across the state who are present in the rooms
00:45:01 Rep. Phillips
00:46:05 Mr. Ewer
00:47:12 Rep. Phillips
00:47:52 Mr. Ewer
00:49:00 Rep. Phillips
00:49:31 Mr. Ewer
00:51:15 Rep. Boniek
00:51:38 Mr. Ewer
00:51:51 Rep. MacLaren
00:52:26 Mr. Ewer
00:52:38 Rep. MacLaren
00:53:03 Mr. Ewer
00:54:33 Rep. MacLaren
00:55:40 Mr. Ewer
00:56:46 Rep. MacLaren
00:56:49 Mr. Ewer

00:57:17 Rep. MacLaren
00:58:17 Mr. Ewer
00:58:41 Rep. MacLaren
00:59:01 Mr. Ewer
00:59:14 Rep. Malek
00:59:19 Rep. Phillips exited the room.
00:59:33 Mr. Ewer
00:59:53 Rep. Himmelberger
01:01:18 Mr. Ewer
01:02:25 Rep. Himmelberger
01:02:38 Rep. Washburn
01:02:58 Mr. Ewer
01:04:32 Rep. Washburn
01:04:49 Ms. Wood
01:05:45 Rep. MacLaren
01:06:14 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
01:06:28 Mr. Ewer
01:08:57 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
01:09:25 Ms. Wood
01:10:08 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson

Closing by Sponsor:

01:10:28 Rep. Wilmer
01:12:36 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson

HEARING ON HB 147

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:13:02 Rep. Gary Maclaren (R), HD 89, opened the hearing on **HB 147**, Revise disclosure of certain late-stage campaign expenditures.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:14:42 Dennis Unsworth, Commissioner, Office of Political Practices

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:21:35 Rep. Washburn
01:21:53 Mr. Unsworth
01:23:29 Rep. Boniek
01:23:49 Mr. Unsworth

01:25:03 Rep. Malek
01:26:08 Mr. Unsworth
01:28:27 Rep. O'Hara
01:28:53 Mr. Unsworth
01:31:40 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson

Closing by Sponsor:

01:31:49 Rep. MacLaren
01:32:02 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
01:32:58 Committee takes a break.
01:34:38 Committee reconvenes.

HEARING ON HB 184

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:34:46 Rep. Bill Nooney (R), HD 100, opened the hearing on
HB 184, Montana state love song.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:36:23 Jerry McGowan, Composer, "The Montana Song"
[EXHIBIT \(sth13a01\)](#)
01:47:03 Drew Geiger, Montana Cultural Advocacy
01:47:29 Mr. McGowan

Opponents' Testimony:

01:48:09 Thomas Ticknor
[EXHIBIT \(sth13a02\)](#)
01:49:19 Hannah Ticknor
[EXHIBIT \(sth13a03\)](#)
01:51:14 Bethany Ticknor
[EXHIBIT \(sth13a04\)](#)
01:52:01 Eli Ticknor
[EXHIBIT \(sth13a05\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:53:21 Rep. Caferro
01:53:51 Mr. McGowan
01:56:00 Rep. Washburn
01:56:16 Rep. Nooney
01:56:32 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
01:56:50 Mr. McGowan

Closing by Sponsor:

01:57:08 Rep. Nooney
02:00:01 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
02:00:06 Committee takes a break.
02:30:13 Committee reconvenes. Rep. Malek, Rep. Wilmer,
Rep. Phillips, Rep. and Brown did not come back after
the break.

HEARING ON HB 170

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:31:00 Rep. Mike Menahan (D), HD 82, opened the hearing on
HB 170, Ensuring tax qualification by IRS of certain
retirement systems.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:33:04 Melanie Symons, Legal Council, Montana Public
Employees' Retirement Board

EXHIBIT (sth13a06)

02:46:22 Tom Bilodeau, MEA-MFT and MPEA

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:49:16 Rep. Boniek
02:49:42 Rep. Menahan
02:50:03 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
02:50:16 Rep. Ingraham
02:50:53 Ms. Symons
02:51:21 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson
02:51:41 Ms. Symons

Closing by Sponsor:

02:52:40 Rep. Menahan
02:53:06 Vice Chairwoman Dickenson

Additional Documents

ADJOURNMENT

02:53:51 Adjournment

MARSHALL MCEWEN, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([sth13aad.pdf](#))