

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By Chairwoman Elsie Arntzen, on February 3, 2009
at 2:30 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Elsie Arntzen, Chairwoman (R)
Rep. Betsy Hands, Vice Chairwoman (D)
Rep. Gary MacLaren, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Arlene Becker (D)
Rep. Tom Berry (R)
Rep. Bob Ebinger (D)
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Michael More (R)
Rep. Scott Reichner (R)
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)
Rep. Diane Sands (D)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Gordon Vance (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Katie Butcher, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, 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 34, SB 78, SB 98, SB 215
Executive Action: HB 269, HB 273, SB 74

00:00:01 Call to Order

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 269

00:02:39 **Motion:** Rep. Hands moved that **HB 269 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

00:02:52 Chairwoman Arntzen

00:03:04 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division

00:04:02 Chairwoman Arntzen

00:04:08 Rep. Reichner

00:04:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Stahl voting no. Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Grinde, and Rep. Bennett voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 273

00:05:09 **Motion:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **HB 273 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

00:05:18 Chairwoman Arntzen

00:05:23 Mr. Kolman

00:05:56 Rep. Hands

00:06:25 Rep. Ingraham

00:07:55 Rep. More

00:08:06 Mr. Kolman

00:08:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Grinde, and Rep. Bennett voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 74

00:09:03 **Motion:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **SB 74 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

00:09:11 Mr. Kolman

00:10:13 Chairwoman Arntzen

00:10:32 Mr. Kolman

00:11:16 **Motion:** Rep. MacLaren moved that **SB 74 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(loh25a01)

Discussion:

00:11:48 Rep. Hands
00:12:04 Mr. Kolman
00:12:10 Rep. Hands
00:12:14 Rep. Reinhart
00:12:47 Chairwoman Arntzen

00:12:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-0 by voice vote. Rep. Bennett
voted by proxy.

00:13:08 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **SB 74 BE**
CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously by
voice vote. Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Grinde,
and Rep. Bennett voted by proxy.

(Rep. Bennett arrived)

00:15:06 Rep. Reichner
00:15:24 Rep. Hands
00:15:53 Chairwoman Arntzen
00:16:51 Rep. MacLaren

00:17:44 Break
00:28:04 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 34

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:28:57 Sen. Dave Lewis (R), SD 42, opened the hearing on
SB 34, Extend boundary of community decay ordinances
for fuel treatment.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:40:23 Richard Van Auken, Chief, Teton County Fire Department
00:43:11 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties
00:45:00 Ellen Simpson, Montana Wood Products Association
00:46:30 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association
00:48:49 Robert Johnson, American Federation of Labor and
Congress of Industrial Organizations of Montana (AFL-
CIO), Smurfit Stone

Opponents' Testimony:

00:50:46 Matthew Koehler, WildWest Institute

EXHIBIT(loh25a02)

00:57:53 Tom Tidwell, Regional Forester, Northern Region, United
States Forest Service

EXHIBIT(loh25a03)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:04:55 Rep. Reinhart
01:05:26 Sen. Lewis
01:06:10 Rep. Reinhart
01:06:28 Sen. Lewis
01:06:48 Rep. Reinhart
01:07:01 Sen. Lewis
01:07:19 Rep. Reinhart
01:07:34 Sen. Lewis
01:08:44 Rep. Bennett
01:08:55 Ms. Simpson
01:08:58 Rep. Bennett
01:09:08 Ms. Simpson
01:09:19 Rep. Bennett
01:09:25 Ms. Simpson
01:09:34 Rep. Bennett
01:09:42 Ms. Simpson
01:11:37 Rep. Ingraham
01:11:46 Mr. Blattie
01:11:48 Rep. Ingraham
01:12:08 Mr. Blattie
01:14:45 Rep. Hands
01:15:17 Mr. Tidwell
01:17:06 Rep. Hands
01:17:37 Mr. Tidwell
01:18:22 Rep. Hands
01:18:36 Mr. Tidwell
01:19:56 Rep. Hands
01:20:09 Mr. Tidwell
01:20:55 Rep. Hands
01:21:15 Mr. Tidwell
01:23:06 Rep. Reichner
01:23:55 Mr. Tidwell
01:25:45 Rep. Menahan
01:25:57 Mr. Blattie
01:25:58 Rep. Menahan
01:26:11 Mr. Blattie

01:26:38 Rep. Menahan
01:26:49 Mr. Blattie
01:27:37 Rep. Menahan
01:28:03 Mr. Blattie
01:28:23 Rep. Menahan
01:29:12 Mr. Blattie
01:29:17 Rep. Menahan
01:29:32 Mr. Blattie
01:30:16 Rep. More
01:30:40 Mr. Tidwell
01:30:48 Rep. More
01:30:58 Mr. Tidwell
01:32:41 Rep. More
01:33:02 Mr. Tidwell
01:33:35 Rep. More
01:34:09 Mr. Tidwell
01:35:55 Rep. More
01:36:09 Mr. Tidwell
01:36:12 Rep. More
01:36:28 Rep. Bennett
01:36:38 Mr. Koehler
01:36:50 Rep. Bennett
01:37:06 Mr. Koehler
01:37:19 Rep. Bennett
01:37:36 Mr. Koehler
01:38:14 Rep. Bennett
01:38:33 Mr. Koehler
01:39:08 Rep. Bennett
01:39:19 Mr. Tidwell
01:39:27 Rep. Bennett
01:39:30 Mr. Tidwell

Closing by Sponsor:

01:39:45 Sen. Lewis

01:43:32 Break

(Chairwoman Arntzen asked Vice Chairwoman Hands to serve as temporary chair.)

01:50:59 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 78

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:52:06 Sen. John Brenden (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB 78, Clarify mill levy limit for soil conservation districts.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:54:34 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

[EXHIBIT\(loh25a04\)](#)

01:55:28 Jeff Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation
Districts

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:56:25 Rep. Barry

01:56:54 Mr. Blattie

Closing by Sponsor:

01:58:18 Sen. Brenden

[EXHIBIT\(loh25a05\)](#)

HEARING ON SB 98

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:59:05 Sen. Jim Keane (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 98,
Authorize local taxing jurisdiction for wildland fuel
reduction projects.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:00:45 Mike McGinley, Montana Association of Counties,
Beaverhead County Commissioner

02:01:36 Linda Stoll, Missoula County

02:06:54 Robert Johnson, American Federation of Labor and
Congress of Industrial Organizations of Montana (AFL-
CIO), Smurfit Stone

02:08:22 Richard Van Auken, Chief, Teton County Fire Department

02:09:45 Ellen Simpson, Montana Wood Products Association

02:10:08 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

02:10:34 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources,
Forestry Division

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:15:21 Rep. Ebinger
02:16:01 Sen. Keane
02:16:45 Rep. Reinhart
02:16:58 Sen. Keane
02:17:31 Chairwoman Hands
02:17:45 Sen. Keane
02:17:56 Mr. Blattie
02:18:22 Chairwoman Hands
02:18:51 Mr. Blattie

Closing by Sponsor:

02:19:00 Sen. Keane

HEARING ON SB 215

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:21:02 Sen. Donald Steinbeisser (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 215, Revise reference to county share of county attorney pay.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:22:00 Larry Fasbender, Deputy Director, Legal Services
Division, Department of Justice
02:22:48 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties
02:23:17 Jim Ahrens, Montana County Attorneys Association
02:23:35 Gary Amestoy, Richland County Economic Development
Organization

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:24:15 Rep. Reinhart
02:24:29 Mr. Fasbender

Closing by Sponsor:

02:26:01 Sen. Steinbeisser

ADJOURNMENT

02:26:33 Adjournment

Katie Butcher, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

Information regarding HB 336 that was requested by Rep. Hands

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([loh25aad.pdf](#))