

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Verdell Jackson, on March 19, 2009
at 10 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Verdell Jackson, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Joe Balyeat, Chairman (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Linda Keim, 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: HB 621, HB 412, HB 400, 3/12/2009

Executive Action: HB 400, HB 621

HEARING ON HB 621

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:54 Rep. Bill Wilson (D), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 621, Authorize local government beer and wine license for certain facilities.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:58 Joe Briggs, Chairman, Cascade County Commission
[EXHIBIT \(bus61a01\)](#)

00:08:53 Vanessa Clark, Great Falls Chamber of Commerce

00:09:42 Mark Staples, Montana Tavern Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:10:03 Shauna Helfert, Administrator, Liquor Control Division,
Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:10:51 Vice Chairman Jackson

00:11:55 Joe Briggs

Closing by Sponsor:

00:12:23 Rep. Wilson

HEARING ON HB 400

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:13:35 Rep. Deborah Kottel (D), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 400, Revise alcohol content of beer.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:20:13 Mark Staples, Montana Tavern Association

00:21:36 Tony Herbert, Montana Brewers Association

[EXHIBIT \(bus61a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus61a03\)](#)

00:24:42 Brian Smith, Vice President, Montana Brewers Association and Helena brewery owner

00:26:22 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farmers Union
00:27:49 Josh Townsley, Tamarack Alehouse Bar and Grill,
Lakeside
00:30:21 Art Galloway, owner, Toppers Cellar, Helena
00:32:29 Mark Taylor, Anheuser-Busch Companies
00:34:06 Tim Christiansen, owner, Vino Per Tutti, Bozeman
00:35:17 Rep. Dennis Himmelberger, HD 47, Billings, self
00:39:02 Neal Leathers, President, Big Sky Brewing Company,
Missoula
00:40:36 Annie Garbagnati, Wholesaler, Rocky Mountain Wine
Company, Kalispell
00:41:58 Gene Betz, owner Vintage Sellers, Great Falls

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:42:37 Shauna Helfert, Administrator, Liquor Control Division,
Department of Revenue

Note: Sen. Balyeat entered the meeting but did not
assume the position of Chairman at this time.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:42:58 Sen. Keane
00:43:21 Rep. Himmelberger
00:45:20 Tony Herbert, Montana Brewers Association
00:45:32 Sen. Tropila
00:45:38 Neal Leathers
00:45:52 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy
00:47:59 Shauna Helfert
00:48:40 Sen. Keane
00:49:42 Shauna Helfert
00:50:03 Vice Chairman Jackson

Closing by Sponsor:

00:50:48 Rep. Kottel

Note: Sen. Balyeat assumed the position of Chair.

HEARING ON HB 412

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:53:56 Rep. Brady Wiseman (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB
412, Revise liquor excise tax rates for smaller
producers.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:57:24 Brian Schultz, owner, Roughstock Distillery, Bozeman

00:57:52 Sen. Barkus entered the room.

00:59:25 Mike Uda, managing member, Vigilante Distillery, LLC

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:01:39 Shauna Helfert, Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:01:53 Sen. Jackson
01:03:37 Rep. Wiseman
01:04:11 Sen. Jackson
01:04:14 Brian Schultz
01:04:48 Sen. Keane
01:05:47 Shauna Helfert
01:06:36 Chairman Balyeat
01:07:35 Shauna Helfert
01:07:57 Sen. Keane
01:08:16 Rep. Wiseman
01:08:59 Chairman Balyeat
01:09:11 Rep. Wiseman
01:09:57 Chairman Balyeat
01:10:16 Shauna Helfert
01:10:29 Chairman Balyeat
01:11:15 Brian Schultz
01:11:28 Shauna Helfert
01:12:26 Sen. Tropila
01:12:38 Shauna Helfert
01:12:59 Sen. Tropila
01:13:02 Rep. Wiseman

Closing by Sponsor:

01:13:25 Rep. Wiseman

01:13:50 Chairman Balyeat

Note: Sen. Peterson, Sen. Squires, and Sen. Windy Boy were not present when the following Executive Action took place.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 400

01:14:40 **Motion:** Sen. Steinbeisser moved that **HB 400 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

01:14:59 Chairman Balyeat
01:15:21 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy
01:16:34 Chairman Balyeat
01:18:58 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy
01:20:11 Tony Herbert, Montana Brewers Association
01:22:20 Sen. Brown
01:22:33 Shauna Helfert
01:23:05 Pat Murdo
01:23:38 Shauna Helfert
01:24:00 Sen. Brown
01:24:26 Chairman Balyeat
01:24:44 Pat Murdo

01:25:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-2 by roll call vote. Sen. Keane and Sen. Stewart-Peregoy voted no. Sen. Peterson and Sen. Squires voted by proxy. Sen. Brueggeman will carry the bill on the Senate floor. Note: Sen. Windy Boy's proxy was not voted.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 621

01:27:36 **Motion:** Sen. Keane moved that **HB 621 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

01:27:53 Sen. Keane
01:28:03 Sen. Topila
01:28:55 Sen. Jackson

01:29:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously 11-0 by voice vote. Sen. Peterson, Sen. Squires, and Sen. Windy Boy voted by proxy. Sen. Topila will carry the bill on the Senate floor.

01:33:00 Chairman Balyeat

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:35 A.M.

Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([bus61aad.pdf](#))