

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Elsie Arntzen, on February 5, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Elsie Arntzen, Chair (R)  
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Dee Brown (R)  
Sen. Edward Buttrey (R)  
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Sue Malek (D)  
Sen. Scott Sales (R)  
Sen. Diane Sands (D)  
Sen. Janna Taylor (R)  
Sen. Fred Thomas (R)  
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary  
Leanne Kurtz, 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 104, 1/27/2015; HB 61, 2/2/2015; HB 60, 1/27/2015; HB 83,  
1/27/2015

Executive Action: Authorized a committee bill in honor of Joseph Dunn.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION**

**Discussion:**

00:00:08 Chair Arntzen

00:01:20 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that the committee authorize a committee bill in honor of Joseph Dunn.

00:02:30 Chair Arntzen

00:02:48 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

00:02:54 Sen. Buttrey  
00:02:59 Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**HEARING ON HB 104**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:03:30 Rep. Jennifer Eck (D), HD 79, opened the hearing on HB 104, Increase price of license plates issued by MDOT for certain vehicles/trailers.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:05:04 Duane Williams, Department of Transportation (MDT)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:05:47 Spook Stang, executive vice president, Motor Carriers of Montana (MCM)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:07:09 Sen. Brown  
00:07:31 Debbie Veroulis, Department of Justice  
00:08:00 Chair Arntzen  
00:09:56 Mr. Stang, MCM  
00:11:13 Sen. Taylor  
00:11:43 Chair Arntzen  
00:11:56 Mr. Williams, MDT  
00:12:16 Chair Arntzen

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:12:26 Rep. Eck  
00:12:59 Chair Arntzen

**HEARING ON HB 61**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:13:26 Rep. Mike Lang (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 61, Revise and update railroad laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:15:10 Travis Kavulla, commissioner, Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC)

[EXHIBIT\(his26a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(his26a02\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:24:31 Sen. Barrett  
00:26:31 Mr. Kavulla, MPSC  
00:27:00 Sen. Malek  
00:29:11 Mr. Kavulla  
00:30:55 Sen. Brown  
00:31:11 Mr. Kavulla

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:31:39 Rep. Lang  
00:31:51 Chair Arntzen

**Additional Questions from Committee Members:**

00:32:40 Sen. Sands  
00:32:53 Mr. Kavulla, MPSC  
00:33:20 Sen. Sands  
00:33:26 Sen. Malek  
00:37:24 Mr. Kavulla  
00:38:03 Sen. Whitford  
00:38:48 Mr. Kavulla  
00:39:02 Chair Arntzen

**HEARING ON HB 60**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:39:32 Rep. Willis Curdy (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on HB 60, Revise fuel tax penalties.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:40:25 Larry Flynn, Department of Transportation (MDT)  
00:43:17 Ronna Alexander, Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store  
Association (MPMCA)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:45:36 Sen. Sands  
00:46:04 Mr. Flynn, MDT  
00:46:32 Sen. Sands  
00:46:44 Sen. Brown  
00:47:47 Mr. Flynn  
00:48:47 Sen. Brown  
00:49:30 Sen. Barrett  
00:50:38 Mr. Flynn  
00:50:57 Chair Arntzen  
00:51:08 Ms. Alexander, MPMCA  
00:52:04 Chair Arntzen  
00:52:24 Mr. Flynn  
00:53:10 Sen. Sands  
00:53:56 Mr. Flynn  
00:54:26 Chair Arntzen

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:54:42 Rep. Curdy

**Discussion:**

00:55:38 Chair Arntzen  
00:55:40 Rep. Curdy  
00:55:59 Chair Arntzen  
00:56:02 Sen. Buttrey  
00:56:08 Sen. Thomas  
00:55:10 Chair Arntzen

**HEARING ON HB 83**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:56:39 Rep. Denise Hayman (D), HD 66, opened the hearing on HB 83, Repeal visitor  
information center-related law.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:59:13 Jeri Duran, division administrator, Department of Commerce (COM)  
01:01:59 Charlotte Lauerman, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:02:33 Sen. Brown  
01:05:24 Ms. Duran, COM  
01:05:30 Sen. Barrett  
01:06:05 Ms. Duran  
01:06:21 Sen. Thomas  
01:10:05 Ms. Duran

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:10:17 Rep. Hayman

**Discussion:**

01:10:28 Chair Arntzen  
01:12:10 Sen. Kaufmann  
01:12:16 Chair Arntzen  
01:12:18 Sen. Brown  
01:12:19 Chair Arntzen  
01:12:20 Sen. Thomas  
01:12:22 Chair Arntzen

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:15 P.M.

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Charlene Devine, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([his26aad.pdf](#))**