

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones, on March 10, 2015 at 8:00 AM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Keenan, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. John Brenden (R)  
Sen. Mary Caferro (D) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)  
Sen. Kris Hansen (R)  
Sen. David Howard (R)  
Sen. Jim Keane (D)  
Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore (R)  
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)  
Sen. Rick Ripley (R)  
Sen. Matthew M. Rosendale Sr (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Jon C. Sesso (D)  
Sen. Cary Smith (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Janna Taylor (R)  
Sen. Roger Webb (R)  
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary  
Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch  
Jon Moe, 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 145, 3/5/2015; SB 312, 3/5/2015; SB 47, 3/5/2015; SB 259, 3/5/2015; SB 99, 3/5/2015

00:02:37 Sen. Blasdel joined the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 145**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:42 Rep. Mike Cuffe (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HB 145, Revise laws related to livestock loss.

00:03:54 Sen. Smith joined the meeting.

00:06:15 Sen. Caferro joined the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:07:24 Jim Brown, Montana Wool Growers Association (MWFA)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs49a01\)](#)

00:10:31 Seth Wilson, Livestock

00:15:48 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

00:17:02 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana Cattle Women

00:18:21 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

00:19:00 Whitney Klasna, Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)

00:21:12 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies

00:22:02 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

00:23:15 Sen. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:23:32 George Edwards, Livestock Loss Board (LLB)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:24:17 Sen. Phillips

00:24:52 Mr. Edwards, LLB

00:27:26 Sen. Phillips

00:27:48 Mr. Edwards

00:28:52 Sen. Phillips

00:29:06 Rep. Cuffe

00:30:49 Sen. Ripley

00:31:44 Mr. Edwards

00:33:13 Sen. Ripley

00:33:59 Mr. Edwards

00:34:50 Sen. Ripley

00:35:13 Rep. Cuffe

00:36:35 Sen. Ripley

00:36:47 Rep. Cuffe

00:37:01 Sen. Keane

00:37:33 Mr. Edwards

00:39:37 Sen. Keane  
00:39:50 Mr. Edwards  
00:40:32 Sen. Keane  
00:41:09 Rep. Cuffe  
00:43:51 Sen. Keane  
00:43:56 Rep. Cuffe  
00:44:16 Sen. Hansen  
00:45:25 Jon Moe, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
00:45:40 Mr. Edwards

**EXHIBIT(fcs49a02)**

00:46:04 Sen. Windy Boy  
00:47:08 Mr. Edwards

**EXHIBIT(fcs49a03)**

00:49:13 Sen. Rosendale joined the meeting.  
00:50:53 Sen. Windy Boy  
00:50:58 Mr. Edwards  
00:51:16 Sen. Windy Boy  
00:51:44 Sen. Brenden  
00:52:00 Rep. Cuffe  
00:52:07 Sen. Hamlett  
00:52:57 Sen. Sesso  
00:53:32 Mr. Edwards  
00:55:29 Sen. Sesso  
00:55:51 Mr. Edwards  
00:55:59 Sen. Sesso  
00:57:50 Rep. Cuffe  
00:58:14 Sen. Sesso  
01:00:20 Rep. Cuffe

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:03:15 Rep. Cuffe

**HEARING ON SB 312**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:07:08 Sen. Mike Phillips (D), SD 31, opened the hearing on SB 312, Generally revise USB laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

**Informational Testimony:**

01:09:29 Lee Baerlocher, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:09:45 Sen. Ripley  
01:09:49 Chair Jones  
01:10:03 Sen. Phillips  
01:11:05 Chair Jones  
01:11:46 Sen. Phillips  
01:11:51 Sen. Sesso  
01:12:12 Mr. Baerlocher, DOR  
01:12:33 Sen. Sesso  
01:12:51 Mr. Baerlocher

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:13:17 Sen. Phillips

**HEARING ON SB 47**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:13:52 Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D), SD 33, opened the hearing on SB 47, Increase assessments on owners of classified forest land.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:16:13 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
01:17:14 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:18:27 Sen. Hansen  
01:18:53 Mr. Harrington, DNRC  
01:20:57 Sen. Hansen  
01:21:19 Mr. Harrington  
01:21:28 Sen. Taylor  
01:21:46 Mr. Harrington  
01:22:08 Sen. Taylor  
01:22:26 Mr. Harrington  
01:23:04 Sen. Hamlett  
01:23:23 Sen. Pomnichowski  
01:23:35 Sen. Hamlett  
01:23:45 Mr. Harrington  
01:26:00 Sen. Hamlett  
01:26:11 Mr. Harrington  
01:27:12 Sen. Brenden  
01:27:28 Mr. Harrington

01:27:45 Sen. Brenden  
01:27:53 Mr. Harrington  
01:27:57 Sen. Taylor  
01:28:19 Mr. Harrington  
01:30:04 Sen. Hansen  
01:30:20 Mr. Harrington  
01:32:22 Sen. Hansen  
01:32:53 Mr. Harrington

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:33:15 Sen. Pomnichowski

**HEARING ON SB 259**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:34:49 Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 259, Revising workers' compensation and occupational health and safety assessments.

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(fcs49a04\)\*\*](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:37:24 Diana Ferriter, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(fcs49a05\)\*\*](#)

01:43:22 Bob Worthington, Labor Management Advisory Council (LMAC)

01:45:23 Don Judge, LMAC

01:47:50 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund

01:48:25 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:48:57 Sen. Keane  
01:49:12 Sen. Tutvedt  
01:49:36 Sen. Keane  
01:50:00 Sen. Tutvedt  
01:50:33 Sen. Keane  
01:50:55 Ms. Ferriter, DLI  
01:51:53 Sen. Keane  
01:52:11 Ms. Ferriter  
01:52:18 Sen. Hamlett  
01:53:01 Sen. Tutvedt  
01:53:39 Mr. Worthington, LMAC  
01:54:09 Sen. Hamlett  
01:54:44 Mr. Worthington

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:54:55 Sen. Tutvedt

**HEARING ON SB 99**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:55:38 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 99, Revise insure Montana small business health insurance laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:58:09 Jesse Laslovich, State Auditor's Office (SAO)  
02:03:03 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)  
02:04:05 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:04:51 Sen. Rosendale  
02:05:07 Mr. Laslovich, SAO  
02:05:16 Sen. Rosendale  
02:05:21 Mr. Laslovich  
02:05:29 Sen. Brenden  
02:05:45 Mr. Laslovich  
02:05:49 Sen. Caferro  
02:06:05 Mr. Laslovich  
02:11:37 Sen. Caferro  
02:12:11 Mr. Laslovich  
02:12:48 Sen. Sesso  
02:14:12 Mr. Laslovich  
02:15:43 Sen. Rosendale  
02:16:31 Mr. Laslovich  
02:17:10 Sen. Hamlett  
02:17:30 Mr. Laslovich  
02:18:07 Sen. Hamlett  
02:18:29 Mr. Laslovich  
02:18:36 Sen. Brenden  
02:18:47 Mr. Laslovich  
02:19:01 Sen. Brenden  
02:19:38 Mr. Laslovich  
02:20:01 Chair Jones  
02:20:55 Mr. Laslovich

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:22:08      Sen. Cohenour

02:23:17      Chair Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:25 a.m.

---

Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

pg

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([fcs49aad.pdf](#))