

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Janna Taylor, on March 13, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Janna Taylor, Chair (R)  
Sen. Edward Buttrey, Vice Chair (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. JP Pommichowski (D)  
Sen. Scott Sales (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (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 555, 3/6/2015; HB 504, 3/6/2015

**HEARING ON HB 555****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:03 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 555, Generally revise laws related to volunteer firefighters.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:02:04 Rich Cowger, Montana State Fire Chief Association (MSFCA)

00:02:26 Sen. Sales entered the hearing.

00:04:34 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance (MFA)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:05:57 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:06:54 Sen. Tutvedt entered the hearing.

00:09:05 Mr. Lundby, MFA

00:09:48 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:10:17 Rep. Fitzpatrick

00:10:33 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:10:49 Chair Taylor

00:13:06 Mr. Lundby

00:13:54 Chair Taylor

00:14:04 Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

00:14:18 Mr. Lundby

00:14:49 Chair Taylor

00:14:54 Ms. Kurtz , LSD

00:15:10 Chair Taylor

00:15;14 Harold Blattie, executive director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

00:15:52 Sen. Vance

00:16:37 Ms. Kurtz

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:17:03 Rep. Fitzpatrick

**HEARING ON HB 504****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:17:41 Rep. Denise Hayman (D), HD 66, opened the hearing on HB 504, Revise laws related to consolidation of rural fire districts and areas.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:18:50 Sen. Buttrey entered the hearing.  
00:18:55 Walt Zidack, Rae Fire Service Area (RFSA)  
00:25:09 Dave Kraft, Sourdough Fire District (SFD)

**EXHIBIT(los52a01)**

00:27:52 Harold Blattie, executive director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
00:31:29 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance (MFA)  
00:31:50 Richard Cowger, Montana State Fund Fire Chief Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:33:02 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:33:47 Mr. Blattie, MACo  
00:34:32 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:35:19 Mr. Lundby, MFA  
00:35:49 Sen. Pomnichowski  
00:36:26 Mr. Zidack, RFSA  
00:38:26 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:40:02 Mr. Zidack  
00:40:55 Sen. Vance  
00:41:44 Mr. Kraft, SFD  
00:44:20 Sen. Tutvedt  
00:45:11 Rep. Hayman  
00:47:22 Sen. McNally  
00:48:19 Rep. Hayman  
00:50:13 Sen. McNally  
00:50:44 Mr. Blattie  
00:52:50 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:53:15 Mr. Kraft  
00:53:43 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:54:47 Sen. Buttrey  
00:55:42 Mr. Blattie  
00:57:32 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:57:42 Mr. Blattie  
00:57:44 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:57:48 Mr. Kraft  
00:58:30 Sen. Tutvedt  
00:58:41 Mr. Kraft  
00:59:20 Sen. Barrett  
01:03:28 Mr. Zidack  
01:03:49 Chair Taylor  
01:04:03 Mr. Blattie  
01:04:39 Chair Taylor

01:04:41 John Semple, Montana Fire Alliance

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:04:55 Rep. Hayman

**Committee Business:**

01:06:01 Chair Taylor

01:06:24 Sen. Buttrey

01:07:16 Chair Taylor

01:07:45 Harold Blattie, executive director, Montana Association of Counties

**[EXHIBIT\(los52a02\)](#)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:10 P.M.

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Charlene Devine, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los52aad.pdf](#))**