

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Janna Taylor, on March 23, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Janna Taylor, Chair (R)  
Sen. Edward Buttrey, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Scott Sales (R)

**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 441, 3/9/2015; SJ 20, 3/18/2015; SJ 21, 3/18/2015

Executive Action: HB 548, Tabled; HB 555, Be Concurred In; SJ 21, Do Pass As Amended; SJ 20, Do Pass; HB 441, Tabled

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 548**

00:01:02 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **HB 548 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

00:01:10 Chair Taylor

00:01:17 Sen. Tutvedt entered the hearing.

00:01:18 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Pomnichowski made a substitute motion that **HB 548 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 6-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Taylor and Sen. Vance voting no. Sen. Sales was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 555**

00:02:43 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **HB 555 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

00:02:51 Sen. Buttrey

00:03:12 Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Services Division

00:03:34 Sen. Pomnichowski

00:04:14 Sen. Tutvedt

00:04:58 Sen. Buttrey

00:05:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Sales, Sen. Tutvedt and Sen. Vance voting no. Sen. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Howard will carry the bill.

00:06:24 Sen. Buttrey

00:06:26 Chair Taylor

**HEARING ON SJ 20**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:06:47 Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SJ 20, Interim study on historic road right-of-way acquisition.

00:07:19 Chair Taylor left the hearing. Vice Chair Buttrey assumed the role of chair.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:09:58 Shawn Thomas, administrator, Trust Land Management Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

00:11:45 George Golie, Montana Wildlife Federation

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:12:51 Sen. Tutvedt

**HEARING ON SJ 21**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:14:09 Sen. Tom Facey (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SJ 21, Interim study on local fire and emergency services.

**[EXHIBIT\(los60a01\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:16:38 John Semple, Montana Fire Alliance

00:17:45 Doug Neil, Montana State Fireman's Association

00:18:42 Larry Epstein, Montana County Attorneys Association

00:19:36 Ted Mead, chief, Fire and Aviation Management Bureau, Forestry Division,  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

00:21:44 Harold Blattie, executive director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:23:20 Sen. Facey

00:24:26 Chair Taylor entered the hearing.

00:24:35 Sen. Barrett

00:24:44 Sen. Buttrey

00:24:55 Chair Taylor resumed duties as chair.

**HEARING ON HB 441**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:25:00 Rep. Jeff Essmann (R), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 441, Provide process for county abandonment/consolidation.

**[EXHIBIT\(los60a02\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

00:35:03 Rep. Bill Harris (R), HD 29,  
[EXHIBIT\(los60a03\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(los60a04\)](#)

00:37:46 Garrett Jolma, Winnett High School (WHS)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:40:35 Sen. Buttrey  
 00:41:04 Rep. Harris  
 00:42:16 Sen. Barrett  
 00:45:38 Rep. Essmann  
 00:46:33 Sen. Tutvedt  
 00:46:48 Rep. Essmann  
 00:48:18 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 00:54:34 Rep. Essmann  
 00:54:51 Sen. Vuckovich  
 00:57:01 Rep. Essmann  
 00:57:24 Sen. Barrett  
 01:02:44 Mr. Harris  
 01:03:01 Sen. McNally  
 01:03:36 Mr. Jolma, WHS  
 01:04:17 Chair Taylor  
 01:05:36 Rep. Essmann

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:05:47 Rep. Essmann  
 01:07:40 Chair Taylor

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 21**

01:08:16 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **SJ 21 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:08:32 Chair Taylor  
 01:08:45 Sen. Buttrey

01:08:48 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **SJ 21 BE AMENDED.** (see exhibit 1)

**Discussion:**

01:08:56 Sen. McNally  
 01:09:16 Sen. Barrett

01:09:40 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-0 by voice vote. Sen. Sales was excused.

01:09:49 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **SJ 21 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 8-0 by voice vote. Sen. Sales was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 20**

01:10:10 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **SJ 20 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

01:10:18 Sen. Tutvedt

01:10:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-0 by roll call vote. Sen. Sales was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 441**

01:11:09 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **HB 441 BE CONCURRED IN**.

**Discussion:**

01:11:10 Sen. Buttrey

01:11:12 Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

01:11:26 **Motion:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **HB 441 BE AMENDED**. (see exhibit 4)

**Discussion:**

01:11:32 Sen. Barrett

01:12:06 Sen. Vance

01:12:55 Ms. Kurtz, LSD

01:13:07 Sen. Tutvedt

01:13:34 Sen. Buttrey

01:14:09 Chair Taylor

01:14:27 **Vote:** Motion failed 3-6 by roll call vote with Sen. Sales, Sen. Taylor and Sen. Vance voting aye. Sen. Sales voted by proxy.

**Discussion:**

01:15:04 Sen. Vance

01:15:48 Sen. Tutvedt

01:16:39 Sen. Barrett

01:18:19 Sen. Pomnichowski

01:20:41 Chair Taylor

01:21:07 **Vote:** Motion failed 1-8 by roll call vote with Sen. Tutvedt voting aye. Sen. Sales voted by proxy.

01:21:37 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Buttrey moved that **HB 441 BE TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED**. Motion carried 8-0 by voice vote. Sen. Sales was excused.

01:21:49 Chair Taylor

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:18 P.M.

---

Charlene Devine, Secretary

cd

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los60aad.pdf](#))**