MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Mark Blasdel, on March 23, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:
      Sen. Mark Blasdel, Chair (R)
      Sen. Roger Webb, Vice Chair (R)
      Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
      Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
      Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
      Sen. Sue Malek (D)
      Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
      Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
      Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
      Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Scott Sales (R), Sen. Fred Thomas (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jaret Coles, Legislative Branch
               Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary

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: SB 350, 3/17/2017; SB 351, 3/17/2017

 Executive Action: SB 125, Tabled; SB 181, Tabled

00:00:43   Chairman Blasdel

HEARING ON SB 350

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:22   Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 350,
             Providing for a new uppermost tax rate.
EXHIBIT(tas60a01)

00:02:08   Sen. Cohenour entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:56   Mike Kadas, director, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)
EXHIBIT(tas60a02)

00:21:09   Abbigail Belcher, Associated Students of the University of Montana
00:21:36   Katy Westhoff, Montana Public Interest Research Group
00:22:51   Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center
EXHIBIT(tas60a03)

00:27:07   Erik Burke, Montana Education Association and Montana Federation of
             Teachers

Opponents' Testimony:

00:30:49   Robert Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MONTAX)
EXHIBIT(tas60a04)

00:40:12   Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:43:21   Sen. Cohenour
00:44:35   Mr. Mahlum, MCC
00:45:39   Sen. Malek
00:46:01   Mr. Kadas, DOR
00:46:21   Sen. Malek
00:46:35   Dan Dodds, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)
00:47:14   Sen. Malek
00:47:50   Mr. Story, MONTAX
00:48:50   Sen. Malek
00:49:21   Sen. Cohenour
00:50:16   Mr. Kadas
00:52:42   Sen. Cohenour
00:53:20   Mr. Kadas
00:54:08   Sen. Hoven

00:55:30	Mr. Kadas
00:58:08	Sen. Webb
00:58:25	Mr. Dodds, DOR
00:59:21	Sen. Webb
00:59:35	Mr. Dodds

Closing by Sponsor:

01:00:37   Sen. McClafferty

01:02:53   Chairman Blasdel

HEARING ON SB 351

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:03:06   Sen. Dick Barrett (D), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 351, Constitutional amendment to prohibit general statewide sales or use tax.
EXHIBIT(tas60a05)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:25:11   Mike Kadas, director, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:32:07   Robert Story, Montana Taxpayers Association
01:33:43   Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:34:33	Sen. Pomnichowski
01:34:51	Mr. Mahlum, MCC
01:35:14	Sen. Webb
01:35:31	Mr. Kadas, DOR
01:36:04	Chairman Blasdel
01:36:48	Mr. Kadas
01:37:12	Sen. Hoven
01:37:26	Mr. Kadas

Closing by Sponsor:

01:37:46   Sen. Barrett

Discussion:

01:39:01   Chairman Blasdel

01:39:28   Jaret Coles, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT(tas60a06)

01:40:29   Chairman Blasdel
01:40:44   Mr. Coles, LSD

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 125

01:41:49   **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Barrett moved that **SB 125 BE TABLED**. Motion carried 10-
             0 by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales and Sen. Thomas were excused.
EXHIBIT(tas60a07)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 181

01:42:02   **Motion/Vote:** Sen. R. Webb moved that **SB 181 BE TABLED**. Motion carried
             10-0 by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales and Sen. Thomas were excused.
EXHIBIT(tas60a08)

01:42:33   Chairman Blasdel

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:45 AM

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Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT(tas60aad.pdf)

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