

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Forrest Mandeville, on March 14, 2019 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Forrest Mandeville, Chair (R)  
Rep. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Jade Bahr (D)  
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)  
Rep. Frank Fleming (R)  
Rep. Frank Garner (R)  
Rep. Sharon Greef (R)  
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)  
Rep. Jessica Karjala (D)  
Rep. Walt Sales (R)  
Rep. Ray L. Shaw (R)  
Rep. Mark Sweeney (D)  
Rep. Peggy Webb (R)  
Rep. Thomas Winter (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jacob Bachmeier, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Rodney Garcia (R)  
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)  
Rep. Tyson T. Runningwolf (D)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Karen Armstrong, Committee Secretary  
Sheri Scurr, 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: SB 101, 2/27/2019; SB 148, 2/27/2019; SB 150, 2/27/2019;  
SB 231, 2/27/2019; SB 232, 2/27/2019

08:01:03 Chair Mandeville ceded the gavel to Rep. Dooling.

### **HEARING ON SB 101**

#### **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:03:27 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 101, Eliminate absentee requirement to return unvoted party ballot.

[EXHIBIT\(sth52a01\)](#)

#### **Proponents' Testimony:**

08:07:53 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties (MACo), Montana  
Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)  
08:08:44 Stuart Fuller, Secretary of State's Office (SOS)  
08:09:00 Cinda Burd, Native American Vote

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

#### **Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:09:53 Rep. Sales  
08:10:21 Sen. Regier  
08:10:46 Rep. Sales  
08:11:00 Sen. Regier  
08:11:07 Rep. Sales  
08:11:17 Stuart Fuller, SOS  
08:11:50 Rep. Sales  
08:12:06 Stuart Fuller, SOS  
08:12:24 Rep. Mandeville  
08:12:42 Stuart Fuller, SOS  
08:12:58 Rep. Mandeville  
08:13:32 Stuart Fuller, SOS  
08:14:06 Rep. Hayman  
08:14:52 Stuart Fuller, SOS  
08:15:49 Chair Dooling  
08:16:03 Sen. Regier

#### **Closing by Sponsor:**

08:16:19 Sen. Regier

### **HEARING ON SB 148**

#### **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:17:09 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 148, Allow late registrant absentee ballots to be dropped off at polling locations.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:20:57 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties (MACo) ,Montana  
Association of County Clerks and Recorders (MACR)  
08:22:31 Michael Toppen, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)  
08:23:23 Cinda Burd, Montana Native Vote

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

08:23:53 Stuart Fuller, Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:24:13 Rep. Sales  
08:24:43 Sen. Bennett  
08:25:34 Vice Chair McKamey  
08:25:51 Sen. Bennett  
08:26:33 Rep. Custer  
08:27:03 Sen. Bennett  
08:27:32 Rep. Mandeville  
08:27:58 Sen. Bennett  
08:28:22 Rep. Mandeville  
  
08:28:29 Rep. Garner left the meeting.  
  
08:28:38 Sen. Bennett  
08:29:00 Rep. Mandeville  
08:29:12 Sen. Bennett

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:29:37 Sen. Bennett

**HEARING ON SB 150****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:30:54 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 150, Revise ethics laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:33:13 Jeff Mangan, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)  
08:36:23 John MacDonald, Montana Newspaper Association (MNA)  
  
08:37:03 Rep. Winter left the meeting.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:37:25 Rep. Karjala  
08:38:08 Commissioner Mangan, COPP  
08:38:47 Rep. Karjala  
08:39:34 Sen. Bennett  
08:40:15 Rep. Karjala  
08:40:28 Sen. Bennett  
08:41:19 Rep. Karjala  
08:42:09 Commissioner Mangan, COPP

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:42:58 Sen. Bennett

**HEARING ON SB 231**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:44:36 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 231, Require sponsor be appointed to legislative referendum ballot committees.

08:45:41 Rep. Greef left the meeting.

08:46:08 Rep. Shaw left the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

08:47:07 Stuart Fuller, Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:47:23 Vice Chair McKamey

08:48:05 Stuart Fuller, SOS

08:48:42 Rep. Custer

08:49:09 Sen. Bennett

08:49:15 Rep. Winter returned to the meeting.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:49:30 Sen. Bennett

**HEARING ON SB 232**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:50:5 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 232, Allow for counties to pay for polling location in certain circumstances.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:53:29 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)  
08:54:08 Michael Toppen, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

08:54:55 Stuart Fuller, Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:55:03 Rep. Sales  
08:55:31 Sen. Bennett  
08:55:53 Rep. Sales  
08:56:25 Sen. Bennett  
08:57:03 Rep. Mandeville  
08:57:35 Sen. Bennett  
08:58:33 Rep. Mandeville  
08:59:54 Sen. Bennett  
09:02:00 Rep. Custer  
09:02:17 Sen. Bennett  
09:02:47 Vice Chair McKamey  
09:03:24 Stuart Fuller, SOS  
09:03:56 Rep. Custer  
09:04:58 Sen. Bennett

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:05:59 Sen. Bennett

**Committee Business:**

09:07:53 Chair Dooling  
09:08:14 Rep. Mandeville  
09:11:05 Rep. Hayman  
09:11:11 Rep. Mandeville  
09:12:00 Sheri Scurr, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
09:13:15 Rep. Mandeville  
09:13:32 Rep. Hayman

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 09:14:39

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Karen Armstrong, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([sth52aad.pdf](#))