

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Lang, on January 16, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Mike Lang, Chair (R)  
Sen. Terry Gauthier, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D)  
Sen. Nate McConnell (D)  
Sen. Jon C. Sesso (D)  
Sen. Roger Webb (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Toni Henneman, Legislative Branch  
Jack Racicot, 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 29, 1/11/2019; SB 33, 1/11/2019

**HEARING ON SB 29****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:03:34 Sen. Fred Thomas (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB 29, Require workers' comp for all volunteer firefighters.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:12:27 Chris Hindoien, Volunteer Fire Insurance Services (VFIS of Montana)  
15:14:33 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance (MFA)  
15:18:12 Rich Cowger, chairman, Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association (MSFCA); chief, Columbus Rural Fire Department  
15:20:34 Mike DeGrosky, chief, Fire Protection Bureau, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
15:23:07 Jane Weber, Cascade County Commissioners

**EXHIBIT(los08a01)**

15:23:34 Sen. MacDonald entered the room.  
  
15:26:00 Jason Rittal, deputy director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
15:26:40 Alan Hulse, chief executive officer, Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA)  
15:27:27 Eric Strauss, administrator, Employment Relations Division, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)  
15:28:32 Joel Gaertig, Montana State Firemen's Association (MSFA)  
15:28:56 Pat Keim, volunteer firefighter  
15:30:37 Bob Drake, fire chief, Tri-Lake Volunteer Fire Department

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:33:32 John Cross, Polson, Black Raptor Fireworks

**Informational Testimony:**

15:36:24 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund (MSF)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:36:44 Sen. Ellsworth  
15:37:48 Sen. Thomas  
15:38:55 Sen. Webb  
15:39:08 Mr. Cowger, MSFCA  
15:40:01 Mr. Lundby, MFA  
15:40:45 Sen. Fielder  
15:41:23 Sen. Thomas  
15:42:29 Sen. Fielder  
15:42:52 Mr. Hindoien, VFIS of Montana  
15:43:40 Sen. Sesso  
15:45:02 Sen. Thomas  
15:46:35 Sen. Sesso  
15:48:12 Mr. Strauss, DLI  
15:49:25 Sen. Sesso  
15:49:40 Mr. Strauss  
15:50:05 Sen Fitzpatrick

15:50:54 Mr. Strauss  
 15:51:19 Mr. Braun, MSF  
 15:52:00 Sen. Fitzpatrick  
 15:52:11 Mr. Braun  
 15:52:36 Sen. Fitzpatrick  
 15:52:59 Mr. Braun  
 15:53:28 Sen. Fitzpatrick  
 15:53:44 Mr. Braun  
 15:55:28 Sen. MacDonald  
 15:56:01 Mr. Strauss  
 15:57:24 Sen. MacDonald  
 15:57:47 Mr. Strauss  
 15:58:00 Sen. Gauthier  
 15:58:54 Mr. Cowger  
 16:00:17 Sen. Webb  
 16:00:36 Ms. Weber, Cascade County  
 16:00:53 Sen. Webb  
 16:00:58 Ms. Weber  
 16:01:09 Sen. MacDonald  
 16:02:13 Sen. Thomas  
 16:03:53 Chair Lang  
 16:04:20 Mr. Rittal, MACo  
 16:04:28 Chair Lang  
 16:05:06 Mr. Braun  
 16:06:05 Chair Lang  
 16:06:15 Mr. Braun

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:06:26 Sen. Thomas

**HEARING ON SB 33**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:10:41 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 33, Revise subdivision laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:12:08 Tom Llewellyn

**[EXHIBIT\(los08a02\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:19:45 Tara DePuy, land use attorney, Montana Association of Counties, Property and Casualty Trust

**[EXHIBIT\(los08a03\)](#)**

16:27:48 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Informational Center  
 16:29:26 Sharon Haugen, Montana Association of Planners  
 16:32:11 Kelly Lynch, Montana League Cities and Towns  
 16:33:02 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon  
 16:34:08 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:35:42 Sen. McConnell  
16:36:44 Sen. Richmond  
16:37:02 Mr. Llewellyn  
16:39:03 Sen. McConnell  
16:39:32 Mr. Llewellyn  
16:41:49 Sen. McConnell  
16:42:40 Mr. Llewellyn  
16:42:54 Sen. McConnell  
16:43:05 Mr. Llewellyn  
16:43:49 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division  
16:44:39 Sen. Webb  
16:45:10 Mr. Llewellyn  
16:47:40 Sen. Webb  
16:47:57 Mr. Llewellyn  
16:48:54 Sen. MacDonald  
16:49:19 Sen. Richmond

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:49:41 Sen. Richmond

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:49 PM

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Jack Racicot, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los08aad.pdf](#))**