

MINUTES

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

Call to Order: Chair Mike Lang, on January 21, 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. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D)
Sen. Nate McConnell (D)
Sen. Roger Webb (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
Sen. Jon C. Sesso (D)

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 17, 1/14/2019; SB 20, 1/14/2019; SB 104, 1/14/2019

HEARING ON SB 17**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:21 Sen. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 17, Authorize creation of regional fire protection service authorities.

EXHIBIT(los11a01)**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:04:48 Rich Cowger, chairman, Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association; chief, Columbus Rural Fire Department
15:08:36 Ted Barkley, Belgrade city manager
15:11:43 Doug Russell, Kalispell city manager
15:12:57 Dave Maslowski, Montana State Firemen's Association
15:14:23 Ron Lindroth, fire chief, Central Valley Fire District (CVFD)
15:15:56 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance
15:16:57 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:21:46 Aidan Myhre, Weyerhaeuser

EXHIBIT(los11a02)**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:24:33 Chair Lang
15:24:45 Ms. Lynch, MLCT
15:25:04 Sen. McConnell
15:25:37 Ms. Lynch
15:27:02 Sen. McConnell
15:27:20 Ms. Lynch
15:27:27 Sen. Ellsworth
15:28:03 Ms. Lynch
15:28:43 Sen. Ellsworth
15:29:01 Ms. Lynch
15:29:51 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:30:17 Ms. Lynch
15:31:03 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division
15:31:48 Ms. Lynch
15:32:01 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:32:24 Ms. Lynch
15:32:52 Mr. Lindroth, CVFD
15:33:47 Chair Lang
15:34:23 Michael DeGrosky, chief, Fire Protection Bureau, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
15:35:39 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:36:11 Ms. Lynch

Closing by Sponsor:

15:39:22 Sen. MacDonald

HEARING ON SB 20

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:41:40 Sen. Roger Webb (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 20, Allow certain municipalities to annex onto a rural fire district.

EXHIBIT(los11a03)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:44:52 Ted Barkley, Belgrade city manager

15:56:29 Rich Cowger, chairman, Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association; chief, Columbus Rural Fire Department

15:57:07 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

15:58:12 Russ Nelson, mayor, city of Belgrade

15:59:11 Ron Lindroth, fire chief, Central Valley Fire District

15:59:51 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

16:00:36 Sen. Webb

HEARING ON SB 104

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:05:00 Sen. Roger Webb (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 104, Allow counties to establish county auditor as part-time office.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:06:47 John Ostlund, Yellowstone County commissioner

16:08:53 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties

EXHIBIT(los11a04)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:11:06 Chair Lang

16:11:12 Sen. Webb

Closing by Sponsor:

16:11:27 Sen. Webb

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:12 PM

Jack Racicot, Secretary

jr

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los11aad.pdf](#))