

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on January 29, 2019 at 8:30 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, Chair (R)
Sen. Dee Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Sue Malek, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Linda Keim, Committee Secretary
Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division

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 62, 1/24/2019; SB 160, 1/24/2019; SB 171, 1/25/2019

Executive Action: SB 126, Do Pass

08:31:34 Chairman Fitzpatrick

HEARING ON HB 62

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:32:26 Rep. Bruce Grubbs (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 62. Amend nonresident auto insurance requirements.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:35:09 Bob Biskupiak, deputy insurance commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, State Auditor (CSI)

08:38:44 John Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Montana

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:40:22 Sen. Brown

08:42:03 Mr. Biskupiak, CSI

08:42:15 Sen. Malek

08:44:21 Mr. Biskupiak

08:45:07 Sen. Ellsworth

08:46:46 Mr. Biskupiak

08:47:01 Chairman Fitzpatrick

08:48:10 Mr. Biskupiak

Closing by Sponsor:

08:48:18 Rep. Grubbs

08:49:14 Chairman Fitzpatrick

HEARING ON SB 160

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:50:58 Sen. Nate McConnell (D), SD 48, opened the hearing on SB 160. Provide workers' compensation for presumptive diseases of firefighters.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:58:30 Joel Fassbinder, president, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters; Montana State Firemen's Association

08:59:04 Dave Maslowski, Montana State Firemen's Association (MSFA)

EXHIBIT(bus17a01)

09:02:03 Joel Gaertig, political advisor, Montana State Firemen's Association

09:05:55 Rich Cowger, president, Montana State Fire Chief's Association (MSFCA)

EXHIBIT(bus17a02)

EXHIBIT(bus17a03)

09:08:34 Jeff Brandt, chief, Missoula City Fire Department (MCFD)
 09:09:52 Adam Haight, AFL-CIO

Opponents' Testimony:

09:10:35 Larry Jones, Montana Self Insurers Association (MSIA)
 09:14:46 Alan Hulse, Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority
 09:21:36 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
 09:28:31 Cary Hegreberg, interim CEO, Montana Chamber of Commerce
 09:31:12 Brian Thompson, Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority

Informational Testimony:

09:33:01 Laura Williamson, state epidemiologist, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
 09:33:37 Bruce Spencer, National Council on Compensation Insurance

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a04\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:36:24 Sen. Brown
 09:38:13 Mr. Maslowski, MSFA
 09:38:23 Chairman Fitzpatrick
 09:38:35 Mr. Maslowski
 09:38:50 Sen. Ellsworth
 09:42:36 Sen. McConnell deferred
 09:43:41 Jeff Brandt, MCFD
 09:44:26 Sen. McConnell
 09:48:04 Ms. Williamson, DPHHS
 09:48:21 Chairman Fitzpatrick
 09:48:43 Ms. Williamson
 09:50:28 Sen. Malek
 09:57:15 Sen. McConnell
 09:57:45 Sen. Brown
 10:01:29 Mr. Cowger, MSFCA
 10:02:27 Chairman Fitzpatrick
 10:02:50 Mr. Cowger
 10:04:01 Sen. Gauthier
 10:06:51 Mr. Cowger
 10:07:40 Chairman Fitzpatrick
 10:07:57 Mr. Cowger
 10:08:29 Sen. Smith
 10:10:52 Mr. Bryson, MACo
 10:11:22 Chairman Fitzpatrick
 10:12:18 Mr. Jones, MSIA
 10:13:44 Chairman Fitzpatrick
 10:15:15 Sen. McConnell
 10:16:13 Sen. Gauthier
 10:18:22 Sen. McConnell
 10:19:42 Sen. Ellsworth
 10:21:45 Sen. McConnell
 10:21:49 Sen. Small
 10:22:17 Sen. McConnell

10:22:41 Chairman Fitzpatrick

10:24:08 Sen. McConnell

Closing by Sponsor:

10:24:19 Sen. McConnell

10:25:08 Chairman Fitzpatrick

Chairman Fitzpatrick turned over the duties of the Chair to Vice Chair Brown.

10:27:00 Chair Brown

HEARING ON SB 171

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:27:10 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 171. Generally revise laws related to firefighters.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:31:52 Joel Gaertig, Montana State Firemen's Association

10:32:15 Brian Reed, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:33:24 Sen. Boland

10:35:01 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:35:06 Sen. Vuckovich

10:35:22 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:35:40 Chair Brown

10:38:15 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:39:03 Sen. Malek

10:40:07 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:40:17 Sen. Ellsworth

10:43:32 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:44:00 Chair Brown

10:44:08 Sen. Malek

10:44:56 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:46:41 Sen. Boland

10:47:03 Sen. Fitzpatrick

Closing by Sponsor:

10:47:39 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:47:46 Chair Brown

Chairman Fitzpatrick assumed the duties of the Chair.

10:48:28 Recess
10:59:13 Reconvene

Sen. Vance was excused.

10:59:15 Chair Fitzpatrick

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 126

10:59:18 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **SB 126 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:59:42 Sen. Malek
11:00:39 Sen. Ellsworth
11:02:06 Sen. Malek
11:02:48 Sen. Brown

11:03:22 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Malek, Sen. F. Smith and Sen. Vuckovich voting no. Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

Committee Business:

11:04:25 Chairman Fitzpatrick
11:04:28 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
11:05:21 Chairman Fitzpatrick
11:05:56 Sen. Brown
11:06:18 Chairman Fitzpatrick
11:06:31 Sen. Boland

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:07 AM

Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus17aad.pdf](#))