

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Dee Brown, on February 1, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Dee Brown, Chair (R)
Sen. Bryce Bennett, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Branch
Jacelyn Stewart, 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 89, 1/24/2019; SB 116, 1/24/2019; SB 128, 1/24/2019; SB 148, 1/24/2019

Executive Action: SR 4 - Be Adopted
SR 5 - Be Adopted

15:00:27 Chair Brown turned the position and duties of the chair to Sen. Bennett.

HEARING ON SB 89

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:00:39 Sen. Dee Brown (R), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB 89, Revise laws on armory account funds.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:02:30 Major General Matt Quinn, Montana National Guard; Department of Military Affairs

EXHIBIT(sts20a01)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:05:18 Sen. Brown

15:06:01 Sen. Brown resumed the position and duties of the chair.

HEARING ON SB 116

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:06:17 Sen. Daniel Salomon (R), SD 47, opened the hearing on SB 116, Generally revise irrigation district election laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:07:42 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

15:10:23 Cindy Palmer Montana Farmers Union

15:10:42 Susan Lake, miLake Farms

15:12:26 Jim Foster, manager, Helena Valley Irrigation District

15:14:12 Shawn Higley, board member, Montana Waters Resources Association

15:15:28 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:16:06 James Brower, president, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

15:20:28 Don Steinbeisser, former senator, Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:22:10 Sen. Bennett

15:23:06 Sen. Salomon

15:24:46 Sen. Bennett

15:25:28 Sen. Salomon

15:26:05 Chair Brown
 15:26:43 Sen. Salomon
 15:27:15 Chair Brown
 15:27:34 Sen. Salomon
 15:27:46 Sen. Kary
 15:28:25 Sen. Salomon
 15:28:39 Chair Brown
 15:28:49 Mr. Brower, MWRA
 15:30:00 Ms. Lake, miLake Farms
 15:30:58 Sen. Ellis
 15:33:31 Sen. Salomon
 15:33:52 Chair Brown
 15:34:27 Sen. Salomon

Closing by Sponsor:

15:34:47 Sen. Salomon

HEARING ON SB 128**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:36:13 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 128, Generally revise laws related to state employee pay and benefits.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:41:21 Larry Nielsen, Montana Federation of Public Employees
 15:44:04 John Forkan, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees;
 Teamsters Local #2, Butte

Opponents' Testimony: None**Informational Testimony:**

15:45:19 Anjenette Schafer, administrator, State Human Resources Division, Department of Administration (DOA)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:45:48 Sen. Cuffe
 15:46:37 Sen. Cohenour
 15:47:05 Hedi Roedel
 15:47:25 Sen. Cuffe
 15:47:58 Ms. Schafer, DOA
 15:48:46 Chair Brown
 15:48:59 Ms. Schafer
 15:49:23 Sen. Cuffe
 15:49:36 Ms. Schafer
 15:49:49 Chair Brown
 15:50:22 Ms. Schafer
 15:50:33 Chair Brown
 15:52:33 Sen. Cohenour
 15:52:52 Sen. Ellis
 15:53:32 Ms. Schafer

15:54:04 Sen. Ellis
15:54:26 Ms. Schafer
15:54:53 Sen. Ellis
15:55:10 Sen Kary
15:55:33 Sen. Cohenour
15:56:38 Sen. Kary
15:56:47 Sen. Cohenour
15:57:16 Chair Brown
15:57:53 Sen. Cohenour

Closing by Sponsor:

15:59:10 Sen. Cohenour

HEARING ON SB 148**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:00:24 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 148, Allow late registrant absentee ballots to be dropped off at polling locations.

[EXHIBIT\(sts20a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:04:09 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties; Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders; Election Administrators
16:07:22 Michael Toppen, Montana Public Interest Research Group
16:08:10 Beth Brennehan, Disability Rights Montana
16:09:09 Cinda Burd, Western Native Voice

[EXHIBIT\(sts20a03\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:11:21 Stuart Fuller, Election Voters Services manager, Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)
16:11:40 Nicole Thuotte, finance specialist, Office of Public Instruction

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:12:15 Chair Brown
16:14:37 Mr. Fuller, SOS
16:15:05 Sen. Kary
16:15:26 Mr. Fuller

Closing by Sponsor:

16:16:15 Sen. Bennett
16:18:55 Chair Brown

[EXHIBIT\(sts20a04\)](#)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 4

16:19:32 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Kary moved that **SR 4 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Osmundson voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 5

16:20:12 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Kary moved that **SR 5 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Osmundson voted by proxy.

16:20:48 Chair Brown

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:21 PM

Jacelyn Stewart, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sts20aad.pdf](#))