

MINUTES

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

Call to Order: Chair Dee Brown, on February 13, 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 162, 2/7/2019; SB 123, 2/11/2019; SB 227, 2/11/2019; SB 231, 2/11/2019; SB 232, 2/11/2019

Executive Action: HJ 3 - Be Concurred In
SB 72 - Do Pass
SB 116 - Do Pass

HEARING ON SB 123**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:00:34 Sen. Sue Malek (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 123, Revise campaign fair notice provisions to include ballot issues.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:01:58 Jeff Mangan, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)
15:03:44 Michael Toppen, Montana Public Interest Research Group

Opponents' Testimony:

15:04:29 Anita Milanovich, constitutional litigation lawyer, Montana Family Foundation

Informational Testimony:

15:09:25 Dana Corson, Elections director, Secretary of State

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:09:55 Sen. Ellis
15:10:22 Sen. Malek
15:10:27 Sen. Bennett
15:10:45 Mr. Mangan, COPP
15:12:12 Chair Brown
15:12:26 Mr. Mangan

Closing by Sponsor:

15:12:56 Sen. Malek

HEARING ON SB 162**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:14:21 Sen. Roger Webb (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 162, Generally revise election laws.

[EXHIBIT\(sts30a01\)](#)**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:18:38 Bret Rutherford, elections administrator, Yellowstone County
15:20:06 Casey Hawes, elections manager, Gallatin County
15:21:32 Rina Moore, clerk and recorder, Cascade County
15:22:58 Dayna Causby, elections administrator, Missoula County
15:24:22 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders; Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
15:26:20 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters

Opponents' Testimony:

15:27:44 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees
15:29:44 Becky Stockton, chief election judge, Helena

[EXHIBIT\(sts30a02\)](#)**Informational Testimony:**

15:34:41 Dana Corson, Elections director, Secretary of State

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:35:01 Sen. Bennett
15:35:14 Ms. Siaperas, MACo
15:37:35 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:37:56 Sen. Bennett
15:38:44 Mr. Rutherford, Yellowstone County
15:39:05 Sen. Bennett
15:39:27 Mr. Rutherford
15:39:59 Sen. Bennett
15:40:45 Chair Brown
15:41:09 Sen. Ellis
15:41:40 Mr. Rutherford
15:42:11 Chair Brown
15:42:28 Ms. Aldrich, LSD

Closing by Sponsor:

15:42:51 Sen. Webb

HEARING ON SB 231**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:45:02 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 231, Require sponsor be appointed to legislative referendum ballot committees.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:47:26 Dana Corson, Elections director, Secretary of State

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:47:42 Chair Brown
15:48:24 Sen. Bennett

Closing by Sponsor:

15:48:33 Sen. Bennett

HEARING ON SB 232**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:49:07 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:

15:51:50 Regina Plettenberg, elections administrator, Ravalli County; Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders
15:52:59 Michael Toppen, Montana Public Interest Research Group
15:53:23 Dayna Causby, elections administrator, Missoula County

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:54:01 Dana Corson, Elections director, Secretary of State (SOS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:54:18 Sen Kary
15:54:39 Mr. Corson, SOS
15:55:11 Sen. Kary
15:55:33 Mr. Corson
15:56:13 Sen. Kary
15:58:55 Sen. Bennet
15:59:23 Chair Brown
16:00:07 Sen. Bennett
16:00:23 Chair Brown
16:00:29 Sen. Bennett
16:00:53 Chair Brown

Closing by Sponsor:

16:01:02 Sen. Bennett

HEARING ON SB 227

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:02:03 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SB 227, Revise electioneering laws.

[EXHIBIT\(sts30a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:07:47 Dana Corson, Elections director, Secretary of State
16:08:01 Jeff Mangan, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)
16:08:34 Regina Plettenburg, Ravalli County; Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:08:56 Sen. Bennett
16:09:20 Sen. Ellis
16:09:28 Chair Brown
16:09:49 Mr. Mangan, COPP
16:10:45 Chair Brown
16:10:55 Sen. Ellis
16:11:29 Chair Brown
16:11:52 Sen. Ellis
16:12:22 Chair Brown
16:12:37 Sen. Ellis
16:13:06 Sen. Kary

16:13:33 Sen. Ellis
16:14:38 Sen. Kary
16:15:23 Sen. Ellis

Closing by Sponsor:

16:16:23 Sen. Ellis

16:17:16 Recess
16:30:06 Reconvened

Sen. Osmundson entered the meeting.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 3

16:30:17 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Kary moved that **HJ 3 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Kary will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 72

16:31:09 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Kary moved that **SB 72 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 116

16:31:49 **Motion:** Sen. Kary moved that **SB 116 DO PASS**.

16:32:05 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Bennett moved that **SB 116 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXHIBIT(sts30a04)

16:34:42 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Kary moved that **SB 116 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:

Jacelyn Stewart, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sts30aad.pdf](#))