

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Roger Webb, on February 19, 2019 at 8:00 AM, in Room 405
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Roger Webb, Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Brian Hoven, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Fred Thomas (R)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jaret Coles, Legislative Branch
Charlene Devine, 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 215, 2/12/2019; SB 237, 2/12/2019; SB 239, 2/12/2019
Executive Action: SB 217, Do Pass As Amended

08:01:10 Chair Webb

HEARING ON SB 239

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:03:03 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 239, Provide for moratorium on property taxes for broadband fiber.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:04:02 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)
08:09:56 Jason Williams, Blackfoot
08:14:43 Doran Fluckiger, Southern Montana Telephone (SMT)
08:16:51 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
08:18:41 Tom Ebzery, CenturyLink
08:20:20 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association
08:20:55 Mark Baker, attorney, Charter Communications
08:21:53 Aidan Myhre, AT&T
08:22:48 Nikolas Griffith, Microsoft

Opponents' Testimony:

08:24:02 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue
08:26:38 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns
08:29:46 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
08:31:12 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:32:10 Sen. Barrett
08:34:56 Sen. Ellsworth
08:35:24 Sen. Barrett
08:35:31 Sen. Cohenour
08:35:56 Mr. Williams, Blackfoot
08:36:29 Sen. Cohenour
08:40:28 Mr. Ebzery, CenturyLink
08:41:16 Sen. Cohenour
08:42:57 Mr. Fluckiger, SMT
08:43:39 Sen. Hoven
08:45:54 Mr. Williams
08:46:17 Sen. Tempel
08:46:40 Mr. Williams
08:47:07 Sen. Pomnichowski
08:49:00 Mr. Williams
08:49:10 Chair Webb
08:49:56 Mr. Feiss, MTA
08:51:08 Sen. Cohenour
08:56:20 Mr. Williams
08:56:59 Sen. Phillips
08:58:40 Mr. Bryson, MACo

08:58:49 Sen. Phillips
09:01:20 Sen. Ellsworth
09:01:39 Sen. Gillespie
09:02:05 Sen. Ellsworth
09:02:31 Sen. Gillespie
09:03:31 Sen. Cohenour
09:03:39 Sen. Gillespie

Closing by Sponsor:

09:03:50 Sen. Ellsworth

09:07:26 Chair Webb

HEARING ON SB 237**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:08:22 Sen. Albert Olszewski (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 237, Provide a tax credit for individual health insurance premiums.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:11:15 John Doran, Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana (BCBSMT)
09:14:05 Richard Miltenberger, Montana Heath CO-OP (MHC)
09:17:03 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union

Opponents' Testimony:

09:18:07 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue (DOR)
09:19:03 Heather O'Laughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center

Informational Testimony: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:21:28 Sen. Barrett
09:23:08 Sen. Olszewski
09:23:22 Sen. Barrett
09:26:01 Mr. Doran, BCBSMT
09:26:05 Sen. Cohenour
09:27:01 Mr. Miltenberger, MHC
09:28:14 Sen. Barrett
09:30:00 Mr. Walborn DOR

Closing by Sponsor:

09:30:23 Sen. Olszewski

[EXHIBIT\(tas35a01\)](#)

09:38:35 Chair Webb turned the role of the Chair over to Vice Chair Hoven.

HEARING ON SB 215**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:39:01 Sen. Roger Webb (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 215, Revising the legislature's revenue estimating process.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:41:08 Sen. Mike Phillips, SD 31

Opponents' Testimony: None**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:44:41 Sen. Barrett
09:45:45 Sen. Phillips
09:45:53 Jaret Coles, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:46:10 Sen. Phillips
09:46:34 Sen. Barrett
09:47:45 Mr. Coles, LSD
09:49:20 Chair Hoven
09:49:33 Mr. Coles

Closing by Sponsor:

09:50:11 Sen. Webb

Committee Business:

09:51:18 Chair Webb
09:52:47 Sen. Barrett
09:52:53 Chair Webb
09:53:42 Sen. Cohenour
09:53:56 Chair Webb

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 217

09:58:11 **Motion:** Sen. Hoven moved that **SB 217 DO PASS.**

09:58:25 **Motion:** Sen. Hoven moved that **SB 217 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(tas35a02)

Discussion:

09:58:44 Stephanie Morrison, lead revenue analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
10:01:01 Chair Webb
10:01:14 Ms. Morrison, LFD

EXHIBIT(tas35a03)

10:03:33 Sen. Phillips
10:04:17 Sen. Barrett
10:05:14 Ms. Morrison
10:05:34 Chair Webb

10:05:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. McClafferty and Sen. Phillips voting no. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Thomas voted by proxy.

10:06:46 Chair Webb

10:06:46 **Motion:** Sen. Hoven moved that **SB 217 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:07:19 Sen. Barrett

10:08:54 Sen. Cohenour

10:11:06 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Cohenour, Sen. McClafferty, Sen. Phillips and Sen. Pomnichowski voting no. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Thomas voted by proxy.

10:12:21 Chair Webb

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:13 AM

Charlene Devine, Secretary

cd

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([tas35aad.pdf](#))