

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: Chair Gordon Vance, on April 2, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Gordon Vance, Chair (R)
Sen. Carlie Boland, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bryce Bennett (D)
Sen. Dee Brown (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Jen Gross (D)
Sen. Diane Sands (D)
Sen. Roger Webb (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Noah Horan, Committee Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch

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 389, 4/1/2019; HB 550, 4/1/2019; HB 629, 4/1/2019

Executive Action: HB 580 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 580

15:00:19 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 580 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:00:35 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 580 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Gross and Sen. Welborn voted by proxy.

EXHIBIT(his68a01)

15:01:22 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 580 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:01:30 Sen. Brown
 15:01:43 Chair Vance
 15:02:02 Sen. Brown
 15:02:12 Sen. Fitzpatrick

15:02:20 Sen. Gross entered the meeting.

15:02:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-3 by roll call vote with Sen. D. Brown, Sen. Fitzpatrick and Sen. Welborn voting no. Sen. Welborn voted by proxy. Sen. Webb will carry the bill.

HEARING ON HB 550

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:04:21 Rep. Alan Redfield (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB 550, Revise definition of public road in gas tax laws.

Informational Testimony:

15:05:37 Ed Ereth, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:08:01 Sen. Brown
 15:08:11 Mr. Ereth, MDT
 15:08:27 Sen. Brown
 15:08:49 Mr. Ereth
 15:09:30 Sen. Brown

15:09:33 Sen. Welborn entered the hearing.

15:10:00 Mr. Ereth
 15:10:29 Sen. Brown
 15:10:48 Mr. Ereth
 15:11:32 Sen. Brown
 15:11:36 Sen. Esp
 15:11:48 Chair Vance

Proponents' Testimony:

- 15:12:27 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF), also speaking on behalf of the Montana Stockgrowers Association
- 15:13:45 Abigail St. Lawrence, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGGA)

Opponents' Testimony:

- 15:16:08 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
- 15:17:04 Matt Leow, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)

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

- 15:17:36 Sen. Esp
- 15:18:27 Ed Ereth, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
- 15:20:43 Sen. Esp
- 15:21:02 Mr. Ereth, MDT
- 15:21:45 Sen. Esp
- 15:21:57 Mr. Ereth
- 15:22:44 Sen. Esp
- 15:23:06 Mr. Ereth
- 15:23:46 Sen. Brown
- 15:23:57 Mr. Ereth
- 15:24:05 Sen. Brown
- 15:24:11 Mr. Ereth
- 15:24:56 Sen. Brown
- 15:25:26 Mr. Ereth
- 15:25:41 Sen. Webb
- 15:25:56 Mr. Ereth
- 15:26:00 Sen. Webb
- 15:26:10 Mr. Ereth
- 15:26:38 Sen. Webb
- 15:26:42 Mr. Ereth
- 15:27:05 Chair Vance
- 15:27:19 Mr. Ereth
- 15:27:22 Chair Vance
- 15:27:31 Mr. Ereth
- 15:27:57 Chair Vance
- 15:28:13 Mr. Ereth

Closing by Sponsor:

- 15:28:21 Rep. Redfield

HEARING ON HB 389**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

- 15:29:53 Rep. Joel Krautter (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 389, Exempt certain vehicles from height restrictions.

Proponents' Testimony:

- 15:32:15 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association

Opponents' Testimony:

15:33:13 Spook Stang, Motor Carriers of Montana

Informational Testimony:

15:34:51 Duane Williams, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:35:12 Sen. Brown
15:35:49 Rep. Krautter
15:37:26 Sen. Brown
15:37:56 Rep. Krautter
15:38:01 Sen. Brown
15:38:20 Rep. Krautter
15:38:40 Mr. Williams, MDT
15:38:46 Sen. Brown
15:39:13 Mr. Williams
15:39:49 Sen. Webb
15:40:07 Mr. Williams
15:40:26 Sen. Webb
15:40:45 Mr. Williams
15:41:01 Sen. Boland
15:41:19 Rep. Krautter
15:41:34 Mr. Williams
15:42:36 Sen. Boland
15:43:12 Rep. Krautter
15:43:25 Sen. Boland

Closing by Sponsor:

15:43:48 Rep. Krautter

HEARING ON HB 629

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:44:45 Rep. Denise Hayman (D), HD 66, opened the hearing on HB 629, Allow bioptic lens users to apply for driver's licenses.

[EXHIBIT\(his68a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:46:18 Michele Snowberger, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)
15:48:09 Robin Thomas, self

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:50:08 Bill Hasquet, Montana Optometric Association (MOA)

[EXHIBIT\(his68a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(his68a04\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:51:19 Sen. Brown

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15:51:40 Ms. Snowberger, DOJ
15:51:55 Sen. Boland
15:52:59 Rep. Hayman
15:53:15 Ms. Snowberger
15:53:45 Sen. Boland
15:54:02 Ms. Snowberger
15:54:12 Sen. Webb
15:54:47 Ms. Snowberger
15:56:39 Sen. Sands
15:57:24 Ms. Snowberger
15:57:49 Sen. Sands
15:57:54 Ms. Snowberger
15:58:08 Sen. Sands
15:58:26 Ms. Snowberger
15:59:50 Sen. Sands
16:00:00 Mr. Hasquet, MOA
16:01:07 Sen. Sands
16:01:20 Mr. Hasquet
16:02:37 Sen. Sands
16:02:49 Mr. Hasquet
16:03:21 Sen. Webb
16:03:34 Mr. Hasquet
16:04:19 Sen. Webb
16:04:44 Ms. Snowberger
16:05:18 Chair Vance

Closing by Sponsor:

16:05:29 Rep. Hayman

16:06:34 Chair Vance
16:07:00 Sen. Esp
16:07:11 Chair Vance
16:07:38 Sen. Sands
16:07:45 Chair Vance

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:08 PM

Noah Horan, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([his68aad.pdf](#))