

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on April 5, 2019 at 8:30 AM, in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Members Excused: Sen. Sue Malek, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)

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 52, 4/1/2019; HB 385, 3/29/2019; HB 515, 4/1/2019; HB 566, 4/1/2019

Executive Action: HB 52, HB 566, Be Concurred In As Amended
HB 579, Taken off Table, Be Concurred In as Amended

08:32:40 Chairman Fitzpatrick

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 579

08:34:01 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 579 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE**. Motion carried 5-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland and Sen. Vuckovich voting no. Sen. D. Brown, Sen. Malek and Sen. Small were excused.

08:35:38 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 579 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 7-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Brown and Sen. Malek voting no. Sen. D. Brown, Sen. Malek and Sen. Small voted by proxy. Sen. Small will carry the bill.

Sen. Ellsworth left the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 52

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:36:54 Rep. Jim Keane (D), HD 73, opened the hearing on HB 52. Revise funding for various economic development programs.

EXHIBIT(bus71a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

08:40:53 Ben Thomas, director, Department of Agriculture

08:43:31 Tara Rice, director, Department of Commerce (DOC)

EXHIBIT(bus71a02)

08:47:12 Ed Greef, former state legislator, Bitterroot Valley

08:48:38 Steve Arveschoug, executive director, Big Sky Economic Development; president, Montana Economic Developers Association

08:51:39 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

08:52:43 Sen. Brown entered the hearing.

08:53:37 Julie Foster, executive director, Ravalli County Economic Authority

EXHIBIT(bus71a03)

08:56:29 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip

08:57:13 Aimee Grmoljez, City of Bozeman; City of Billings

08:57:47 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Manufacturing Association

08:59:02 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau, Montana Stockgrowers Association

08:59:35 Jillian Streit, Streits Agriculture, Chester

09:01:16 Wyeth Windham, Printing For Less, Livingston

09:02:59 Brandon DeShaw, Montana Craft Malt Company, Butte

09:04:17 Roger Sammons, Cut Bank, Pardue Grain Incorporated

09:06:33 Shauna Farver, co-owner, manager, Farver Farms, Scobey

09:09:24 Emily Free-Wilson, free lance artist, business owner, Helena

09:11:30 Scott Forristall, president, Winston Rod, Twin Bridges

09:12:13 Jeff Darling, business owner, Tower Marketing

09:12:46 Tim Burton, executive director, Montana League of Cities and Towns

09:13:50 Jim Atchison, executive director, Southeastern Montana Economic Development Corporation, Colstrip
09:14:41 Jake TeSelle, family farmer, Crooked Yard Hops, Bozeman
09:15:38 Sarah Converse, executive director, Sweet Grass Development
09:16:07 Tori Matejovski, Great Northern Development Corporation, Wolf Point
09:17:04 Paul Reichert, executive director, Prospera Business Network
09:18:09 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union

Additional exhibit received by email from Gloria O'Rourke, Montana Economic Development Services, Anaconda

[EXHIBIT\(bus71a04\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:18:49 Sen. Smith
09:19:16 Rep. Keane
09:19:39 Sen. Boland
09:20:47 Rep. Keane
09:21:11 Sen. Boland
09:21:15 Ms. Rice, DOC

Closing by Sponsor:

09:22:12 Sen. Keane
09:22:51 Chairman Fitzpatrick

Sen. Vance left the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 566

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:24:11 Rep. Barbara Bessette (D), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 566. Require background checks for assisted living facility employees.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:26:52 Eve Franklin, Montana Health Care Association (MHCA)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:30:23 Sen. Brown
09:30:25 Ms. Franklin, MHCA redirect
09:30:52 Rep. Bessette
09:31:26 Sen. Gauthier
09:31:52 Rep. Bessette
09:32:14 Sen. Boland

09:33:18 Ms. Franklin

Closing by Sponsor:

09:33:48 Rep. Bessette

09:34:21 Chair Fitzpatrick

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 52

09:34:58 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **HB 52 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:35:08 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 52 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED TO TAKE THE SUNSET FROM TWO TO EIGHT YEARS.**

Discussion:

09:35:22 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division

09:35:41 Chairman Fitzpatrick

09:35:47 Sen. Gauthier

09:36:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Malek, Sen. Small and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

09:36:25 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **HB 52 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Malek, Sen. Small and Sen. Vance voted by proxy. Sen. Fitzpatrick will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 566

09:37:39 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **HB 566 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:38:08 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 566 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(bus71a05\)](#)

Discussion:

09:38:17 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:39:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Malek, Sen. Small and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

09:40:14 **Motion:** Sen. D. Brown moved that **HB 566 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

09:40:25 Sen. Boland

09:40:56 Mr. Walker, LSD

09:41:19 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-1 by roll call vote with Sen. Vance voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Malek, Sen. Small and Sen. Vance voted by proxy. Sen. Boland will carry the bill.

Chairman Fitzpatrick passed the duties of the chair to Vice Chair Brown and left the hearing.

9:43:24 Chair Brown

HEARING ON HB 515

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

9:43:10 Rep. Barry Usher (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 515. Generally revise motor vehicle laws.

EXHIBIT(bus71a06)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:47:04 Michele Snowberger, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:00:50 Sen. Vance
10:00:56 Ms. Snowberger, DOJ
10:04:08 Sen. Gauthier
10:06:27 Ms. Snowberger
10:07:32 Chair Brown
10:14:34 Ms. Snowberger

10:14:02 Sen. Gauthier left the hearing. Sen. Ellsworth entered the hearing.

Closing by Sponsor:

10:15:18 Rep. Usher
10:19:21 Chair Brown
10:19:40 Chairman Fitzpatrick entered the hearing and assumed the role of Chair.

HEARING ON HB 385

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:19:51 Rep. Wylie Galt (R), HD 30, opened the hearing on HB 385. Authorize blackjack to be played in licensed establishments.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:21:06 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance, Montana State Fire Chiefs' Association
10:23:05 Joel Gaertig, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters
10:23:26 Dave Maslowski, Montana State Firemen's Association

Opponents' Testimony:

10:24:03 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association of Montana (GIA), also speaking for Montana Tavern Association

EXHIBIT(bus71a07)

10:27:32 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association

Informational Testimony:

10:28:55 Angela Nunn, administrator, Gambling Control Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

10:29:10 Brad Longcake, executive director, Montana Council on Problem Gambling

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:29:48 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:32:28 Ms. Nunn, DOJ
10:34:16 Sen. Vance
10:35:45 Mr. Peterson, GIA
10:36:09 Sen. Ellsworth
10:39:17 Rep. Galt
10:39:27 Sen. Brown
10:40:04 Rep. Galt
10:40:42 Sen. Boland
10:42:07 Rep. Galt
10:43:18 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:43:23 Mr. Peterson
10:43:36 Sen. Smith
10:44:10 Ms. Nunn
10:44:56 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:45:00 Ms. Nunn

Closing by Sponsor:

10:45:37 Rep. Galt

10:46:22 Chair Fitzpatrick

Committee Business:

10:46:48 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

10:47:41 Sen. Boland

10:47:57 Chair Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:48 AM

Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus71aad.pdf](#))