

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Wendy McKamey, on February 22, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 455 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Wendy McKamey, Chair (R)
Rep. Sharon Greef, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)
Rep. Ed Hill (R)
Rep. Jessica Karjala (D)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Kathy Whitman (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Bergoffen, Committee Secretary
Coleen Street, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Hope Stockwell, 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 362, 2/19/2021; HB 421, 2/19/2021; HB 441, 2/19/2021; HB 452, 2/19/2021; HB 455, 2/19/2021; HB 462, 2/19/2021

08:03:53 Chair McKamey

HEARING ON HB 362

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:05:36 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 362, Clarify credit for military leave during employment.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:07:36 Roger Hagan, American Legion of Montana

08:08:59 Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Closing by Sponsor:

08:10:48 Rep. Fitzgerald

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 362

08:11:20 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Greef moved that **HB 362 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Bishop, Rep. F. Smith and Rep. Whitman voted by proxy.

HEARING ON HB 421

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:12:45 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 421, Provide pension benefits for volunteer emergency care providers.

[EXHIBIT\(sth37a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

08:19:13 Bill Slaughter, self

[EXHIBIT\(sth37a02\)](#)

08:23:13 Blaine Bradshaw, self

08:26:07 Ruth Rater, self

08:27:01 Donna Elford, self

Opponents' Testimony:

08:28:30 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

08:31:16 Rich Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance

08:33:26 Travis Walker, Montana State Volunteer Firefighter Association

08:34:38 William Holahan, Montana Retirement Board

Informational Testimony:

08:38:07 April Grady, State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:38:39 Rep. Custer

08:39:31 Rep. Hinkle

08:40:08 Rep. Custer
08:40:37 Rep. Hinkle
08:44:07 Rep. Hayman
08:44:57 Shantil Siaperas, MACo
08:46:54 Rep. Hayman
08:47:09 Shantil Siaperas, MACo
08:47:46 Rep. Runningwolf
08:48:09 Rep. Hinkle
08:48:38 Rep. Runningwolf
08:49:22 April Grady, SITSD
08:49:41 Rep. Runningwolf
08:50:34 April Grady, SITSD
08:50:54 Rep. Reksten
08:51:20 Rep. Hinkle
08:53:16 Rep. Reksten
08:53:30 Rep. Hinkle
08:53:40 Rep. Custer
08:54:09 William Holahan, Montana Retirement Board
08:54:38 Rep. Custer
08:54:59 William Holahan, Montana Retirement Board
08:55:15 Rep. Greef
08:55:38 Rep. Hinkle
08:55:56 Chair McKamey
08:56:19 Rep. Hinkle
08:56:29 William Holahan, Montana Retirement Board

Closing by Sponsor:

08:57:33 Rep. Hinkle

HEARING ON HB 441**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:00:14 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 441, Revise age requirements for election judges.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:01:39 Isaac Nehring, Montana Youth Action
09:04:53 Rina Moore, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR)
09:07:18 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR)
09:08:30 Keaton Sunchild, Western Native Voice
09:09:37 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

Opponents' Testimony:

09:11:30 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:15:03 Rep. Karjala
09:15:30 Isaac Nehring, Montana Youth Action
09:17:07 Rep. Hayman
09:17:51 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

09:19:32 Rep. Walsh
09:20:25 Rep. Kortum
09:21:17 Rep. Walsh
09:21:33 Rep. Kortum
09:21:52 Rep. Smith
09:22:34 Dana Corson, SOS
09:23:05 Rep. Bertoglio
09:23:31 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
09:25:18 Rep. Reksten
09:26:03 Rep. Kortum
09:27:15 Rep. Custer
09:28:08 Rep. Kortum
09:28:41 Chair McKamey
09:29:05 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:30:00 Chair McKamey
09:30:57 Rep. Kortum

Closing by Sponsor:

09:31:58 Rep. Kortum

HEARING ON HB 452

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:33:17 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 452, Permit local governments to use ranked choice voting in local elections.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:34:46 David Saslav, self

Opponents' Testimony:

09:38:39 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

[EXHIBIT\(sth37a03\)](#)

09:41:13 Donna Elford, self
09:42:12 Ruth Rater, self
09:42:41 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:44:22 Rep. Karjala
09:44:58 David Saslav, self
09:46:56 Rep. Hayman
09:47:35 Rep. Kortum
09:49:07 Rep. Reksten
09:49:38 Rep. Kortum
09:50:49 Rep. Custer
09:50:59 Rep. Kortum
09:51:46 Chair McKamey
09:52:06 David Saslav, self
09:52:55 Chair McKamey
09:53:15 Rep. Kortum

09:53:42 Chair McKamey
 09:53:55 Rep. Kortum
 09:54:59 Rep. Greef
 09:55:38 Dana Corson, SOS
 09:56:31 Rep. Custer
 09:57:13 Dana Corson, SOS

Closing by Sponsor:

09:57:56 Rep. Kortum

HEARING ON HB 455**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:02:10 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 455,
 Generally revise election laws related to absentee ballots.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:02:43 Tony Roush, CTF Pack
 10:04:43 Randy Pinocci, self
 10:05:49 Donna Elford, self
 10:06:37 Ruth Rater, self

Opponents' Testimony:

10:07:57 Joel Peden, Montana Association of Centers for Independent Living (MACIL)
 10:09:24 Sam Forstag, American's Civil Liberty Union (ACLU)
 10:10:36 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
 10:12:02 Allison Reinhardt, Montana Associated Students (MAS)
 10:12:51 Beth Brennehan, Disability Rights Montana
 10:14:10 Rachel Schmidt, Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)
 10:15:31 McKenna Sellers, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)
 10:16:15 Jack Rinck, Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)
 10:16:36 Kelly Twoteeth, Montana Native Voice
 10:17:46 Keaton Sunchild, Western Native Voice
 10:18:34 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
 10:18:59 Ruthie Barour, Forward Montana
 10:20:27 Joy Breslauer, National Federation of the Blind of Montana
 10:21:32 Danielle Vazquez, Indigenous Organizers of Montana
 10:22:39 Clarena Brockie, Snake Butte Voter Coalition
 10:24:22 Andrew Werk Jr., Fort Belknap Indian Community
 10:25:57 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
 10:26:57 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:29:03 Rep. Karjala
 10:30:18 Joel Peden, MACIL
 10:31:22 Rep. Kortum
 10:31:41 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
 10:32:27 Rep. Hayman
 10:33:13 Andrew Werk Jr., Fort Belknap Indian Community
 10:34:49 Rep. Dooling

10:35:06 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
10:35:19 Rep. Dooling
10:35:47 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
10:37:14 Rep. Bertoglio
10:37:56 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
10:39:23 Rep. Running Wolf
10:40:02 Tony Roush, CTF Pack
10:40:37 Rep. Running Wolf
10:40:51 Tony Roush, CTF Pack
10:40:57 Rep. Running Wolf
10:41:16 Tony Roush, CTF Pack
10:41:27 Rep. Custer
10:41:49 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
10:42:11 Rep. Custer
10:42:32 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
10:43:59 Rep. Putnam
10:44:26 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
10:45:06 Rep. Smith
10:45:51 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
10:46:35 Rep. McKamey
10:46:55 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
10:48:25 Tony Roush, CTF Pack
10:49:42 Rep. Walsh
10:50:15 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

Closing by Sponsor:

10:50:54 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

HEARING ON HB 469

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

11:05:32 Rep. Sara Novak (D), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 469, Allow emergency funds to be used for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Proponents' Testimony:

11:08:52 Joel Gaertig, Montana State Fireman's Association
11:10:27 Tim Burton, Montana League of City and Towns (MLCT)
11:11:24 Rich Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance

Informational Testimony:

11:13:38 Delila Bruno, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

11:14:30 Rep. Hill
11:14:55 Delila Bruno, DMA
11:15:08 Rep. Running Wolf
11:15:35 Delila Bruno, DMA
11:17:07 Rep. Hill
11:17:49 Delila Bruno, DMA

Closing by Sponsor:

11:18:37 Rep. Novak

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 170

11:44:06 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Greef moved that **SB 170 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 12-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Hayman, Rep. Karjala, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. F. Smith and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Bishop, Rep. Weatherwax, and Rep. Whitman voted by proxy. Chair McKamey will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 429

11:46:25 **Motion:** Rep. Greef moved that **HB 429 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

11:46:51 Rep. Kortum

11:47:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 12-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Hayman, Rep. Karjala, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. F. Smith and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Bishop, Rep. Weatherwax, and Rep. Whitman voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 405

11:48:57 **Motion:** Rep. Greef moved that **HB 405 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

11:49:11 Rep. Reksten

11:49:29 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dooling made a substitute motion that **HB 405 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion failed 9-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Dooling, Rep. Frazer, Rep. Greef, Chair McKamey, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Whitman voting aye. Rep. Bishop, Rep. Weatherwax and Rep. Whitman voted by proxy.

Discussion:

11:51:35 Rep. Hayman
 11:53:08 Rep. Kortum
 11:54:38 Chair McKamey
 11:56:12 Rep. Dooling
 11:58:11 Rep. Kortum
 11:58:39 Hope Stockwell, LSD
 11:58:55 Rep. Kortum
 11:59:58 Rep. Binkley
 12:01:19 Rep. Custer
 12:01:36 Chair McKamey
 12:01:53 Rep. Custer
 12:02:25 Rep. Hayman
 12:04:40 Chair McKamey

12:07:13 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-9 by roll call vote with Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Dooling, Rep. Frazer, Rep. Greef, Rep. Hill, Chair McKamey, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Whitman voting no. Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Bishop, Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax and Rep. Whitman voted by proxy.

12:09:00 Chair McKamey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:09:16

John Bergoffen, Secretary

jb

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sth37aad.pdf](#))