

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Call to Order: Chair Barry Usher, on March 11, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 137 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Barry Usher, Chair (R)
Rep. Kathy Kelker, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Amy Regier, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Seth Berglee (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Dennis R. Lenz (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Derek Skees (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Mallerie Stromswold (R)
Rep. Danny Tenenbaum (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Frank Fleming (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Lydia Balian, Committee Secretary
Rachel Weiss, Legislative Branch
Hallie Swain, Remote Meeting Coordinator

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 168, 3/9/2021; SB 215, 3/9/2021; SB 261, 3/9/2021

HEARING ON SB 168

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:06:53 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 168, Revise lien laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:11:02 William Gowen, Montana Land Title Association (MLTA)

08:12:28 Mars Scott, State Bar of Montana

08:15:16 Shelly Brander, self

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:20:25 Vice Chair Kelker

08:22:56 Sen. Fitzpatrick

08:23:43 Rep. Gillette

08:24:57 Mars Scott, State Bar of Montana

08:27:23 Rep. Skees

08:27:57 Sen. Fitzpatrick

Closing by Sponsor:

08:28:19 Sen. Fitzpatrick

HEARING ON SB 261

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:29:35 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 261, Generally revise laws related to Justice Courts.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:31:51 Rep. France

08:32:58 Sen. Fitzpatrick

Closing by Sponsor:

08:33:21 Sen. Fitzpatrick

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

08:34:30 Sen. Carl Glimm (R), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB 215, Establish the religious freedom restoration act.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:41:41 Matt Sharp, Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)
08:46:22 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)
08:51:48 Matt Brower, Montana Catholic Conference
08:54:53 Dick Pence, Big Sky Worldview Forum

EXHIBIT(juh49a01)

08:58:33 Chair Usher left the meeting.
08:58:41 Vice Chair Regier assumed the chair.
08:59:01 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
09:02:31 Cathy Carlson, self

Opponents' Testimony:

09:05:48 Katie Lowe, Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

EXHIBIT(juh49a02)

09:08:02 Caitlin Borgmann, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU)
09:12:58 Rep. Whiteman Pena

EXHIBIT(juh49a03)

09:13:25 Chair Usher rejoined the meeting.
09:16:54 Rep. Phalen
09:17:49 Rep. Whiteman Pena
09:18:28 Tawny Cale, Indigenous Organizers of Montana
09:21:20 Chelsia Rice, self
09:25:28 SK Rossi, Cities of Missoula and Bozeman
09:29:30 Rep. Skees
09:30:03 Rep. Hawk
09:30:21 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association (MMA)
09:32:45 Rep. Gillette
09:34:49 Jean Branscum, MMA
09:35:16 Rep. J. Hinkle
09:36:05 Jean Branscum, MMA
09:37:02 Rep. A. Regier
09:37:52 Jean Branscum, MMA
09:38:45 Chair Usher
09:39:30 Jean Branscum, MMA
09:39:57 Rep. Skees
09:41:34 Jean Branscum, MMA
09:42:17 Chair Usher
09:42:36 Jean Branscum, MMA
09:43:00 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote (MWV)
09:45:47 Adrian Jowort, Montana Native Vote (MNV)
09:49:13 Shawn Reagor, self

09:52:08 Paxton McCausland, Montana Gender Alliance
 09:54:06 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
 09:56:28 Stephanie Morton, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB)
 09:58:15 Ann Truesdell, Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
 09:59:58 Chair Usher left the meeting.
 10:00:05 Vice Chair Regier assumed the chair.
 10:02:09 Erica Paron, self
 10:05:51 Izzy Milch, Forward Montana
 10:07:37 Andy Werk Jr, Fort Belknap Indian Community
 10:10:44 Chair Usher rejoined the meeting.
 10:11:19 Kelsen Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)
 10:14:08 Quinn Leighton, self

EXHIBIT(juh49a04)

10:17:36 Laurie Little Dog, self

EXHIBIT(juh49a05)

10:23:37 Kelly Twoteeth, Indigenous Organizers Collective
 10:27:54 Iko'tsimiskimaki Beck, Indigenous Organizers Collective
 10:29:40 Rep. J. Hinkle
 10:29:58 Vice Chair Kelker
 10:30:41 Chair Usher
 10:32:09 Samuel Enemy-Hunter, Montana Native Vote (MNV)
 10:35:42 Danielle Vazquez, self
 10:36:29 Marcos Bullschild, self
 10:36:47 Josh Butterfly, Opening Doors
 10:42:33 Rep. Smith
 10:44:29 Dr. Lauren Wilson, self

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:45:52 Vice Chair Kelker
 10:46:40 SK Rossi, Cities of Missoula and Bozeman
 10:46:52 Caitlin Borgmann, ACLU
 10:48:35 Vice Chair Kelker
 10:50:58 Caitlin Borgmann, ACLU
 10:51:48 Rep. Gillette
 10:52:44 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
 10:53:34 Rep. Tenenbaum
 10:56:13 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
 10:56:38 Rep. J. Hinkle
 10:59:13 Matt Sharp, ADF
 11:00:05 Rep. J. Hinkle
 11:00:26 Josh Butterfly, Opening Doors
 11:02:09 Rep. Berglee
 11:06:38 Laurie Little Dog, self
 11:07:05 Rep. Berglee

11:09:53 Caitlin Borgmann, ACLU
11:10:35 Rep. Berglee
11:13:39 Dr. Lauren Wilson, self
11:14:59 Rep. Skees
11:17:11 Caitlin Borgmann, ACLU
11:18:05 Rep. Farris-Olsen
11:18:36 SK Rossi, Cities of Missoula and Bozeman
11:22:17 Rep. Stafman
11:24:16 Caitlin Borgmann, ACLU
11:24:52 Rep. Gillette
11:25:56 Caitlin Borgmann, ACLU

Closing by Sponsor:

11:26:46 Sen. Glimm

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:30:03

Lydia Balian, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([juh49aad.pdf](#))