

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

**Call to Order:** Chair Mark Noland, on March 18, 2021 at 08:30 AM, in Room 172 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Mark Noland, Chair (R)  
Rep. Edward Buttrey, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Katie Sullivan, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)  
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)  
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)  
Rep. Steve Gist (R)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Derek J. Harvey (D)  
Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)  
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)  
Rep. Sara Novak (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

##### **Members Excused:**

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)  
Rep. Rynalea Whiteman Pena (D)

**Members Absent:** None

##### **Staff Present:**

Jordee Bomgardner, Committee Secretary  
Jameson Walker, Legislative Branch  
Monte Cole, 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 234, 3/11/2021; SB 251, 3/11/2021; SB 253, 3/11/2021; HB 624, 3/11/2021

**HEARING ON SB 251****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:33:46 Sen. Cary Smith (R), SD 27, opened the hearing on SB 251, Generally revise civil liability laws relating to damages.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:36:45 Todd O'Hair, Montana Chamber of Commerce

[EXHIBIT\(buh54a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(buh54a02\)](#)

08:39:33 Rep. Harvey left the meeting.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

08:40:02 Jessie Luther, Montanan Hospital Association (MHA)

[EXHIBIT\(buh54a03\)](#)

08:42:57 Kiely Keane, Billings Clinic

08:46:43 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governors Office (GOV)

08:48:33 Kelly Gallinger, Montana Defense Trial Lawyers (MDTL)

08:49:03 Rep. Whiteman Pena joined the meeting.

08:54:12 Aimee Grmoljez, Community Medical Center (CMC)

08:56:05 Anders Blewett, self

09:05:52 Rep. Olsen joined the meeting.

09:06:27 Chair Noland

09:06:48 Anders Blewett, self

09:08:34 Chair Noland

09:08:40 Vice Chair Sullivan left the meeting.

09:09:14 Forrest Ehlinger, Benefis Health System

[EXHIBIT\(buh54a04\)](#)

09:10:27 Ian McIntosh, American Property and Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

09:11:29 Chair Noland left the meeting.

09:13:19 Vice Chair Buttrey assumed the Chair.

09:13:27 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

**Informational Testimony:**

09:21:39 Bob Olsen, self

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:22:40 Rep. Gist

09:23:42 Jessie Luther, MHA

09:24:00 Rep. Loge

09:24:24 Jessie Luther, MHA

09:24:45 Rep. Marshall

09:25:17 Rep. Gunderson left the meeting.

09:25:42 Forrest Ehlinger, Benefis Health System

09:26:08 Rep. Marshall

09:26:31 Rep. Harvey joined the meeting.

09:28:46 Kelly Gallinger, MDTL

09:29:07 Rep. Olsen  
09:29:50 Anders Blewett, self  
09:31:49 Rep. Gist  
09:33:12 Jessie Luther, MHA  
09:33:35 Bob Olsen, self  
09:34:03 Rep. Gist  
09:34:17 Bob Olsen, self  
09:35:25 Rep. Marshall  
09:36:57 Ian McIntosh, APCIA  
09:37:38 Rep. Galloway  
09:38:38 Ian McIntosh, APCIA  
09:40:49 Rep. Olsen  
09:41:35 Jessie Luther, MHA  
09:41:49 Bob Olsen, self  
09:44:42 Rep. Olsen  
09:45:25 Anders Blewett, self  
09:46:25 Chair Buttrey  
09:46:36 Anders Blewett, self  
09:47:59 Rep. Duram  
09:48:26 Chair Buttrey  
09:48:39 Bob Olsen, self

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:49:11 Sen. C. Smith

09:51:35 Rep. Noland joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.

**HEARING ON SB 253**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:52:13 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 253, Revise state income tax medical care savings account investment options.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:54:35 Sen. Hertz

09:54:48 Chair Noland

09:58:30 Rep. Loge

**HEARING ON SB 234****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:59:03 Sen. Gordon Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 234, Create the Unemployment Insurance Program Integrity Act.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:00:24 Joe Horvath, Opportunity Solutions Project (OSP)  
10:02:16 Scott Sales, Governors Office (GOV)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

10:02:53 Scott Reichner, Equifax

[EXHIBIT\(buh54a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(buh54a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(buh54a07\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

10:07:32 Quinlan O'Connor, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

10:07:56 Rep. Gist  
10:08:35 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI  
10:09:57 Rep. Duram  
10:10:29 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI  
10:10:35 Rep. Galloway  
10:12:27 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI  
10:13:41 Rep. Olsen  
10:14:56 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI  
10:16:41 Rep. Olsen  
10:17:53 Scott Reichner, Equifax  
10:18:56 Rep. Curdy  
10:20:53 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI  
10:21:26 Rep. Gist  
10:21:44 Scott Reichner, Equifax  
10:22:08 Rep. Gist  
10:22:26 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI  
10:22:58 Rep. Harvey  
10:23:19 Sen. Vance  
10:23:59 Chair Noland  
10:24:57 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:25:25 Sen. Vance

**HEARING ON HB 624****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:26:46 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 624, Establish a business task force on child care.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:30:28 Sen. Sales  
10:33:52 Todd O'Hair, Montana Chamber of Commerce  
10:36:17 Mark Kelley, self

**[EXHIBIT\(buh54a08\)](#)**

10:38:42 Mike Halligan, Washington Companies  
10:42:09 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Advocates for Children (MAC)  
10:43:21 Heather O'Hara, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)  
10:45:23 Kali Wicks, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT); Women's Foundation of Montana (WFD)

**[EXHIBIT\(buh54a09\)](#)**

10:47:07 Kathleen O'Leary, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None**Informational Testimony:**

10:50:00 Jamie Palagi, Montana Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)  
10:50:28 Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five Montana

**[EXHIBIT\(buh54a10\)](#)**

10:51:00 Rob Grunewald, self

**[EXHIBIT\(buh54a11\)](#)****Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

10:52:15 Rep. Gist  
10:52:51 Mike Halligan, Washington Companies  
10:53:50 Rep. Duram  
10:57:23 Nanette Gilbertson, MAC  
10:58:22 Rep. Galloway  
11:00:53 Rep. Buckley  
11:01:03 Rep. Marshall left the meeting.  
11:01:35 Rep. Anderson  
11:02:03 Rob Grunewald, self  
11:03:14 Rep. Curdy  
11:03:58 Rob Grunewald, self

**Closing by Sponsor:**

11:04:57 Rep. Buckley  
  
11:05:58 Vice Chair Sullivan joined the meeting.  
11:06:08 Chair Noland  
11:07:42 Vice Chair Sullivan  
11:07:50 Jameson Walker, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:08:11

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Jordee Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([buh54aad.pdf](#))**