

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Wendy McKamey, on March 25, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Wendy McKamey, Chair (R)
Rep. Sharon Greef, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)
Rep. Ed Hill (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Kathy Whitman (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Marvin Weatherwax, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Jessica Karjala (D)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Bergoffen, Committee Secretary
Coleen Street, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Pad McCracken, 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 649, 3/19/2021; HB 651, 3/19/2021

08:59:01 Rep. Putnam assumed the chair

09:01:39 Chair Putnam

HEARING ON HB 651

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:02:26 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 651, Generally revise ballot initiative laws.

EXHIBIT(sth59a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:06:47 Jessie Luther, self

09:09:33 Rep. Running Wolf joined the meeting

09:16:36 Chuck Denowh, self

Opponents' Testimony:

09:20:41 Ella Smith, Montana Women Vote

09:22:37 Sam Forstag, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

09:25:01 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:28:43 Rep. Reksten

09:29:38 Jessie Luther, self

09:30:20 Rep. Hayman

09:31:05 Sam Forstag, ACLU

09:33:13 Rep. Hayman

09:34:15 Sam Forstag, ACLU

09:35:08 Rep. Kortum

09:35:37 Rep. Bertoglio

09:36:43 Rep. Kortum

09:37:21 Rep. Bertoglio

09:37:54 Rep. Kortum

09:38:17 Rep. Bertoglio

09:38:26 Rep. Walsh

09:39:10 Jessie Luther, self

09:39:36 Rep. Walsh

09:40:15 Jessie Luther, self

09:41:15 Rep. McKamey

09:41:43 Jessie Luther, self

09:42:05 Rep. McKamey

09:42:16 Jessie Luther, self

09:43:03 Rep. Hayman

09:44:30 Jessie Luther, self

09:48:34 Rep. Custer

09:49:26 Jessie Luther, self

09:49:49 Rep. Hayman

09:50:23 Jessie Luther, self

09:51:24 Rep. Hayman
09:52:09 Jessie Luther, self
09:53:35 Chair Putnam
09:53:56 Jessie Luther, self

Closing by Sponsor:

09:54:10 Rep. Bertoglio

09:55:34 Recess
10:38:43 Reconvened with Rep. Dooling excused.

HEARING ON HB 649**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:39:03 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 649, Revise construction laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:40:30 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
[EXHIBIT\(sth59a02\)](#)

10:43:21 Rep. Dooling joined the meeting.
10:50:48 Roger Hagan, Montana American Legion

Opponents' Testimony:

10:53:13 Bruce Spencer, Montana Energy Business Alliance (MEBA)
11:00:15 Aimee Grmoljez, Nextera

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

11:07:04 Rep. Karjala joined the hearing
11:07:04 Rep. Hill
11:07:39 Aimee Grmoljez, Nextera
11:08:24 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:09:19 Rep. Walsh
11:10:00 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:11:00 Rep. Walsh
11:11:22 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:12:49 Rep. Walsh
11:13:10 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:13:22 Rep. Karjala
11:14:37 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:15:21 Rep. Karjala
11:15:31 Rep. Hayman
11:15:48 Rep. Walsh left the meeting
11:16:17 Aimee Grmoljez, Nextera
11:17:47 Rep. Smith
11:18:07 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:19:01 Rep. Smith

11:19:23 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:19:42 Rep. McKamey
11:20:11 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:20:31 Rep. McKamey
11:21:10 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:21:49 Rep. McKamey
11:22:20 Bruce Spencer, MEBA
11:22:36 Rep. McKamey
11:23:22 Bruce Spencer, MEBA
11:23:51 Rep. McKamey
11:24:30 Bruce Spencer, MEBA
11:25:36 Rep. McKamey
11:26:06 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:27:29 Rep. Bertoglio
11:27:45 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:28:23 Rep. Hill
11:28:38 Commissioner Joe Briggs, Cascade County
11:29:21 Rep. Reksten
11:30:28 Aimee Grmoljez, Nextera

Closing by Sponsor:

11:31:17 Rep. Kassmier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:32:12

John Bergoffen, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sth59aad.pdf](#))