

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Geraldine Custer, on April 1, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Geraldine Custer, Chair (R)  
Rep. Larry Brewster, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern (D)  
Rep. Frank Fleming (R)  
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)  
Rep. Steve Gist (R)  
Rep. Derek J. Harvey (D)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)  
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)  
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Kathy Whitman (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Cristen Friede, Committee Secretary  
Toni Henneman, 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 694, 3/30/2021

**HEARING ON HB 694****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:38 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, opened the hearing on HB694, Revise laws related to special districts.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:02:50 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
15:04:59 Rep. Whitman joined the meeting  
15:07:25 Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commission

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:09:28 Brian Thompson, Montana Rural Water Systems  
15:12:27 Cheryl Grey, Department of Administration (DOA)

**Informational Testimony:**

15:14:52 Dan Clark, Local Government Center

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:15:12 Rep. Hawk  
15:15:30 Rep. Gist  
15:16:53 Rep. Fern  
15:19:36 Dan Clark, Local Government Center  
15:20:50 Chair Custer  
15:22:59 Erik Bryson, MACo  
15:24:59 Vice Chair Dunwell  
15:25:20 Erik Bryson, MACo  
15:26:09 Chair Custer  
15:26:20 Erik Bryson, MACo

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:26:56 Rep. Gist

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 174**

15:28:48 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dunwell moved to **RECONSIDER THE MOTION** on **SB 174**. Motion carried 16-0 by voice vote. Rep. Gunderson was excused.

15:30:03 Toni Henneman, Legislative Service Division (LSD)

15:31:27 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dunwell moved to **RECONSIDER ACTION** on **SB 174 AMENDMENT**. Motion carried 16-0 by voice vote. Rep. Gunderson was excused.

15:32:39 **Motion:** Rep. Dunwell moved that **SB 174 BE AMENDED**.  
**EXHIBIT(loh64a01)**

**Discussion:**

15:33:21 Toni Henneman, LSD  
15:34:54 Rep. Kerns

15:35:08 Vice Chair Dunwell  
15:36:20 Rep. Bertoglio  
15:36:33 Vice Chair Dunwell  
15:37:07 Erik Bryson, MACo  
15:38:32 Rep. Galloway  
15:38:56 Rep. Bertoglio  
15:39:03 Rep. Fern  
15:39:39 Rep. Kerns  
  
15:39:56 Recessed  
15:52:24 Reconvened  
  
15:52:29 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-11 by roll call vote with Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Kortum and Rep. Thane voting aye. Rep. Gunderson voted by proxy.

15:53:39 **Motion:** Rep. Brewster moved that **SB 174 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT**(loh64a02)

**Discussion:**

15:53:41 Rep. Gist  
15:54:02 Chair Custer  
15:54:11 Toni Henneman, LSD  
15:54:27 Chair Custer  
15:54:47 Rep. Kerns  
  
15:56:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Dunwell and Rep. Kortum voting no. Rep. Gunderson voted by proxy.  
  
15:56:18 **Motion:** Rep. Brewster moved that **SB 174 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:56:33 Rep. Fern  
15:58:42 Chair Custer  
15:59:15 Vice Chair Dunwell  
  
16:00:32 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Kortum and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. Gunderson voted by proxy. Rep. Bertoglio will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 694**

16:01:31 **Motion:** Rep. Gist moved that **HB 694 DO PASS.**  
  
16:01:50 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Gist moved that **HB 694 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Gunderson voted by proxy.  
**EXHIBIT**(loh64a03)  
  
16:03:18 **Motion:** Rep. Brewster moved that **HB 694 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:03:37 Rep. Fern  
16:03:58 Rep. Kortum  
16:04:32 Rep. Galloway  
16:05:13 Vice Chair Brewster  
16:05:27 Rep. Hawk  
16:05:56 Rep. Gist

16:06:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Gunderson voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:07:07

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Cristen Friede, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([loh64aad.pdf](#))