

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Derek Skees, on April 21, 2021 at 3:15 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Derek Skees, Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Brittany Bury, Committee Secretary
Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch
Taylor Eggebrecht, 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 297, 4/19/2021
Executive Action: SB 86; SB 297; SB 379

15:17:18 Chair Skees
 15:18:06 Rep. Olsen
 15:18:28 Rep. Duram joined the meeting.
 15:19:51 Chair Skees
 15:20:58 Rep. Olsen
 15:21:51 Chair Skees

HEARING ON SB 297

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:22:47 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 297, ConnectMT Act to establish broadband deployment.

15:24:59 Chair Skees

Proponents' Testimony:

15:26:37 Mark Baker, Charter Communications; AT&T
 15:30:13 Aimee Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless
 15:32:38 Shane , AT&T
 15:33:59 Tom Ebzery, Century Link
 15:34:58 Margaret Morgan, T-Mobile
 15:35:31 Rep. Kassmier joined the meeting.
 15:36:32 Rich Rasmussen, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)
 15:38:43 Scott Reichner, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
 15:40:01 Rachael Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
 15:40:50 Melissa Lewis, Molson Coors Beverage Company (MCBC)
 15:41:45 Rep. Noland
 15:42:40 Brian Worthen, Visionary Broadband
 15:45:29 Daniel Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce
 15:46:27 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development

Opponents' Testimony:

15:48:00 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)

Informational Testimony:

15:55:39 Director Scott Oserman, Commerce (COM)
 15:55:53 Richard Wolff, self

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:56:55 Rep. Sullivan
 15:57:42 Sen. Ellsworth
 15:59:22 Rep. Sullivan
 15:59:33 Rep. Kortum
 16:02:03 Richard Wolff, self
 16:04:02 Rep. Kortum
 16:08:56 Rep. Kassmier left the meeting.
 16:09:02 Sen. Ellsworth
 16:10:16 Rep. Phalen
 16:14:13 Sen. Ellsworth
 16:14:21 Rep. Brewster

16:16:14 Sen. Ellsworth
16:18:59 Chair Skees
16:19:19 Rep. Custer
16:19:51 Sen. Ellsworth
16:21:10 Rep. Sullivan
16:23:21 Sen. Ellsworth
16:25:03 Rep. Olsen
16:28:45 Chair Skees
16:29:08 Rep. Olsen
16:29:18 Sen. Ellsworth
16:29:58 Rep. Custer
16:30:16 Sen. Ellsworth
16:31:27 Rep. Kortum
16:32:01 Sen. Ellsworth

Closing by Sponsor:

16:33:05 Sen. Ellsworth
16:34:30 Chair Skees

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 297

16:34:57 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 297 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:35:02 Chair Skees
16:35:12 Rep. Sullivan
16:35:54 Rep. Olsen
16:36:55 Chair Skees

16:37:17 **Motion:** Rep. Olsen made a motion that **SB 297 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(feh76a01)

Discussion:

16:37:30 Chair Skees
16:38:14 Rep. Kortum
16:38:44 Chair Skees

16:38:46 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:39:27 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 297 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:39:33 Chair Skees
16:39:36 Rep. Custer
16:40:54 Chair Skees

16:41:51 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Skees will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 86

16:42:29 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 86 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:42:34 Chair Skees

16:42:43 Trevor Graff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

16:43:10 **Motion:** Rep. Custer made a motion that **SB 86 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(feh76a02)

Discussion:

16:43:32 Chair Skees

16:43:49 Trevor Graff, LSD

16:46:03 Rep. Custer

16:46:32 Chair Skees

16:47:06 Rep. Olsen

16:48:06 Rep. Custer

16:49:27 Rep. Olsen

16:49:36 Chair Skees

16:52:10 Rep. Custer

16:53:18 Chair Skees

16:53:47 Vice Chair Hayman

16:54:35 Chair Skees

16:54:38 **Vote:** Motion failed 2-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Custer and Rep. Kassmier voting aye.

16:55:29 Vice Chair Zolnikov

16:56:49 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov made a motion that **SB 86 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 10-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Custer and Rep. Kassmier voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 379

16:58:07 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 379 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:58:14 Chair Skees

16:58:30 Vice Chair Hayman

16:59:16 Vice Chair Zolnikov

17:00:53 Rep. Brewster

17:03:17 Chair Skees

17:03:25 Rep. Brewster

17:03:44 Rep. Custer

17:05:37 Rep. Duram

17:07:00 Vice Chair Zolnikov

17:07:15 Chair Skees

17:12:43 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Phalen made a motion that **SB 379 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried 11-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Custer voting no.

Committee Business:

17:13:56 Chair Skees

17:14:50 Vice Chair Zolnikov

17:15:22 Rep. Olsen

17:16:56 Chair Skees

17:17:01 Rep. Phalen

17:17:27 Chair Skees

17:18:01 Rep. Custer

17:18:51 Chair Skees

17:19:08 Rep. Phalen

17:19:14 Chair Skees

17:20:06 Vice Chair Zolnikov

17:20:09 Chair Skees

17:20:24 Vice Chair Zolnikov

17:20:34 Chair Skees

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:20:38

Brittany Bury, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh76aad.pdf](#))