

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on January 8, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, Chair (R)
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Carlie Boland, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary
Clara Bentler, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch
Erin Sullivan, 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: SB 65, 1/5/2021; SB 66, 1/5/2021

09:01:10 Chair Fitzpatrick
 09:01:28 Sen. Vance assumed the position of the chair

HEARING ON SB 65

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:01:44 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB65, Revise civil liability laws.

 09:09:25 Sen. Boland
 09:09:34 Chair Vance

Proponents' Testimony:

09:10:02 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
[EXHIBIT\(bus05a01\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(bus05a02\)](#)

 09:13:19 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity
[EXHIBIT\(bus05a03\)](#)

 09:16:35 Ronda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Businesses
 09:19:07 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association
 09:21:17 E.J. Redding, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association
 09:23:07 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Bankers Association
 09:24:38 Jessie Luther, Montana Hospital Association; Hospitality & Development Association of Montana; Rocky Mountain Power; Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
 09:25:53 Daniel Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce
 09:27:25 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association; Montana Restaurant Association
 09:28:25 Gregory Dorrington, Montana Medical Association
 09:29:37 Tammy Johnson, Montana Mining Association
 09:31:13 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association
 09:32:11 Stephen Wahrlich
 09:33:56 Amanda Cahill, American Heart Association
 09:35:13 Stuart Dogget, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association
 09:36:32 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
 09:37:19 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
 09:38:19 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association
 09:39:05 David Smith, Montana Contractors' Association

Proponents' Testimony Received Online:

[EXHIBIT\(bus05a04\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

09:40:42 David Passieri
 09:46:31 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)
 09:57:33 Laurie Little Dog, Let Them Come Home, Institutionalized Persons in Montana
 10:01:09 Sen. Vance
 10:01:27 Ms. Little Dog

Opponents' Testimony Received Online:

[EXHIBIT\(bus05a05\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

[EXHIBIT\(bus05a06\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:04:20 Sen. Boland
10:06:25 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:09:56 Sen. Boland
10:10:47 Sen. Sweeney
10:11:15 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:12:17 Sen. Gauthier
10:12:39 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:13:29 Sen. Gillespie
10:13:44 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:14:58 Sen. Gillespie
10:15:10 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:15:43 Sen. Pope
10:16:59 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:19:53 Sen. Pope
10:21:02 Sen. Fitzpatrick
10:23:23 Sen. Pope
10:23:51 Mr. Smith, MTLA
10:23:58 Sen. Pope
10:24:44 Mr. Smith

Closing by Sponsor:

10:26:45 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:28:36 Chair Vance

HEARING ON SB 66

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:28:50 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB66, Generally revise the Montana Business Corporation Act.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:31:31 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
10:32:25 Vincent Kalafat, attorney, Business Estate Trust Tax
10:33:57 Keith Tokerud, attorney

Proponents' Testimony Received Online:

[EXHIBIT\(bus05a07\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

10:36:41 Kellee English, Montana Secretary of State

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

10:37:39 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:38:00 Sen. Fitzpartick assumed the duties of the chair.

10:38:01 Chair Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:39 A.M.

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus05aad.pdf](#))