

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP COVID-19 RESPONSE PANEL

Call to Order: Chair Jason W. Ellsworth, on January 14, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 335 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth, Chair (R)
Rep. Kim Abbott, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Todd Everts, Legislative Branch
Susan Fox, Legislative Branch
Gwyn Schooler, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, 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:

Amended the COVID Panel Rules

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO COVID PANEL RULES:

09:09:22 Chair Ellsworth
09:12:08 Rep. Abbott
09:12:21 Chair Ellsworth
09:12:40 Rep. Abbott
09:13:01 Todd Everts, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:13:43 Chair Ellsworth
09:13:53 Sen. Cohenour

EXHIBIT(Ils09a01)

09:14:49 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved **TO AMEND ITEM 7 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES** striking "you are diagnosed" and inserting "a legislator tests positive."

Discussion:

09:15:07 Chair Ellsworth
09:15:36 Rep. Abbott
09:16:09 Sen. Cohenour
09:17:02 Chair Ellsworth
09:17:13 Rep. Vinton
09:17:46 Chair Ellsworth
09:18:22 Rep. Vinton
09:18:38 Chair Ellsworth
09:19:52 Hope Stockwell, remote meeting coordinator (RMC)
09:19:57 Susan Fox, LSD
09:21:01 Chair Ellsworth
09:21:10 Rep. Vinton
09:21:37 Chair Ellsworth
09:22:38 Sen. Cohenour
09:23:09 Chair Ellsworth

09:23:40 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Vinton made a substitute motion **TO AMEND ITEM 7 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES** to add "please notify the legislative contact tracer and county health department as appropriate."

09:24:08 Chair Ellsworth

09:25:15 Without objection, Rep. Vinton withdrew the substitute motion.

09:25:21 Chair Ellsworth

09:25:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Discussion:

09:26:38 Chair Ellsworth
09:27:00 Sen. Cohenour
09:27:18 Chair Ellsworth

09:28:12 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved **TO AMEND ITEM 8 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES** striking "you are diagnosed" and inserting "a legislator tests positive" and following "immediately" insert "and begin isolation."

Discussion:

09:28:26 Chair Ellsworth
09:30:26 Sen. Cohenour
09:31:51 Chair Ellsworth
09:33:17 Sen. Cohenour
09:34:17 Chair Ellsworth
09:34:56 Rep. Abbott
09:35:12 Chair Ellsworth

09:35:53 **Vote:** Motion failed 3-5 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Sen. Cohenour and Rep. Vinton voting aye.

Discussion:

09:36:31 Rep. Abbott
09:36:41 Chair Ellsworth
09:37:15 Rep. Abbott

EXHIBIT(IIIs09a02)

09:38:57 Chair Ellsworth

09:39:09 **Motion:** Rep. Abbott moved to **AMEND ITEM 10 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES** striking "leg.mt.gov" and inserting "https://leg.mt.gov/public-testimony/."

Discussion:

09:40:09 Chair Ellsworth

09:40:50 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:41:16 **Motion:** Rep. Abbott moved to **AMEND ITEM 3 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES.**

Discussion:

09:42:55 Chair Ellsworth
09:43:08 Speaker Galt
09:43:34 Chair Ellsworth

09:44:03 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Blasdel made a substitute motion to **CONCEPTUALLY AMEND ITEM 3 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES.**

Discussion:

09:44:51 Chair Ellsworth
09:45:05 Rep. Abbott

09:45:08 **Vote:** Substitute motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:46:18 **Motion:** Rep. Abbott moved to **AMEND ITEM 3 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES.**

Discussion:

09:46:48 Chair Ellsworth

- 09:48:01 Rep. Vinton
- 09:48:28 **Vote:** Motion failed 2-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott and Sen. Cohenour voting aye.
- 09:49:16 Rep. Abbott
- 09:49:55 **Motion:** Rep. Vinton moved to **CONCEPTUALLY AMEND ITEM 7 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES.**

Discussion:

- 09:50:48 Chair Ellsworth
- 09:50:55 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Cohenour made a substitute motion to **CONCEPTUALLY AMEND ITEM 7 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES.**

Discussion:

- 09:51:32 Rep. Vinton
- 09:52:20 Chair Ellsworth
- 09:52:28 Rep. Abbott
- 09:52:48 Chair Ellsworth
- 09:52:52 Rep. Abbott
- 09:53:03 Chair Ellsworth
- 09:53:25 Rep. Vinton
- 09:53:43 **Vote:** Substitute motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 09:54:19 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved to **CONCEPTUALLY AMEND ITEM 8 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES.**

Discussion:

- 09:54:57 Chair Ellsworth
- 09:55:06 Sen. Cohenour
- 09:56:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Discussion:

- 09:57:33 Rep. Abbott
- 09:57:43 Chair Ellsworth
- 09:57:58 Ms. Fox, LSD

EXHIBIT(IIs09a03)

- 10:02:06 Chair Ellsworth
- 10:02:34 Sen. Cohenour
- 10:03:00 Chair Ellsworth
- 10:05:40 Rep. Abbott
- 10:05:55 Chair Ellsworth
- 10:06:42 Speaker Galt
- 10:07:03 Sen. Cohenour

10:07:54 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved **TO AMEND THE COVID PANEL RULES TO INCLUDE COVID 19 SYMPTOMS AND SYMPTOMATIC TESTING AVAILABILITY AND TO REMOVE PARAGRAPH 2.**

Discussion:

10:08:57 Chair Ellsworth
10:09:24 Sen. Cohenour
10:09:31 Chair Ellsworth
10:09:40 Ms. Fox
10:10:08 Sen. Cohenour
10:10:30 Ms. Fox

10:10:53 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Cohenour made a substitute motion **TO INCLUDE IN PARAGRAPH 3** "who is symptomatic."

Discussion:

10:11:10 Chair Ellsworth
10:11:35 Sen. Cohenour
10:11:50 Chair Ellsworth
10:11:58 Rep. Vinton
10:12:32 Chair Ellsworth
10:13:54 Speaker Galt
10:14:08 Chair Ellsworth
10:14:59 Speaker Galt

10:15:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Galt voting no.

10:16:37 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved **TO AMEND THE COVID PANEL RULES CONCEPTUALLY TO** offer paid sick leave to the 2021session staff.

[EXHIBIT\(IIIs09a04\)](#)

Discussion:

10:17:52 Chair Ellsworth

10:18:15 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Cohenour made a substitute motion **TO ALSO INCLUDE EXPANDED FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT LEAVE.**

Discussion:

10:18:43 Rep. Abbott
10:19:02 Chair Ellsworth
10:19:15 Rep. Abbott
10:19:20 Chair Ellsworth
10:19:29 Rep. Vinton
10:19:50 Mr. Everts, LSD
10:20:14 Ms. Fox
10:20:55 Chair Ellsworth
10:21:10 Sen. Cohenour
10:21:45 Chair Ellsworth
10:23:53 Sen. Cohenour

10:25:20 Without objection, Sen. Cohenour withdrew the motion.

10:25:47 Chair Ellsworth

10:26:24 Ms. Fox

10:27:08 Chair Ellsworth

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE EMPLOYEE DISCUSSION

10:27:47 Rep. Abbott

10:28:07 Chair Ellsworth

EXHIBIT(IIs09a05)

10:29:06 Rep. Abbott

10:29:14 Sen. Cohenour

10:29:18 Rep. C. Knudsen

10:29:26 Sen. Smith

10:29:40 Speaker Galt

10:29:44 President Blasdel

10:29:47 Rep. Vinton

10:29:57 Rep. Abbott

10:31:10 Chair Ellsworth

10:31:47 Rep. Abbott

10:32:15 Chair Ellsworth

10:34:11 Rep. Abbott

10:34:45 Chair Ellsworth

10:37:35 Rep. Abbott

10:37:39 Chair Ellsworth

10:37:43 Rep. Abbott

10:38:05 Chair Ellsworth

10:39:47 Rep. Abbott

10:39:53 Chair Ellsworth

10:39:56 Sen. Cohenour

10:42:42 Chair Ellsworth

10:44:37 Sen. Cohenour

10:45:23 Chair Ellsworth

10:46:26 Rep. Abbott

10:47:23 Chair Ellsworth

10:48:40 Rep. Abbott

10:48:55 Chair Ellsworth

10:49:50 Ms. Fox

10:51:32 Chair Ellsworth

10:52:02 Ms. Fox

10:52:40 Sen Ellsworth

10:52:56 Ms. Fox

10:53:26 Chair Ellsworth

10:53:50 Sen. Cohenour

10:54:32 Ms. Fox

10:55:18 Sen. Cohenour

10:55:29 Ms. Fox

10:55:35 Chair Ellsworth

10:56:54 Rep. Vinton

10:57:28 Ms. Stockwell, RMC

10:57:31 Chair Ellsworth

PUBLIC COMMENT:

10:58:02 Charlotte Sanborn, Helena

11:02:29 Robyn Mohs

11:03:42 Derek Ivester, Bozeman

11:06:01 Sharon Patton-Griffin

11:09:55 Alise Hardesty

EXHIBIT(IIs09a06)

11:14:34 Anna Shchemelinin

EXHIBIT(IIs09a07)

11:18:20 Cindy Bumgarner, retired school teacher

EXHIBIT(IIs09a08)

11:20:48 Linda Semones, Bozeman

EXHIBIT(IIs09a09)

11:22:44 Tom Towe, Billings

Additional Public Comment Received:

EXHIBIT(IIs09a10)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:26 A.M.

Gwyn Schooler, Secretary

gs

Additional Documents:

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([lls09aad.pdf](#))