

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on January 19, 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. Mark Sweeney (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

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

Members Excused:

Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Cary Smith (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 91, 1/15/2021; HB 79, 1/15/2021; SB 112, 1/18/2021

Executive Action: SB 90, SB 97, SB 102

09:03:12 Sen. Vance assumed the duties of the chair.

HEARING ON SB 112

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:03:25 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 112, Revise construction laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:06:11 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:09:23 Sen. Boland
09:10:18 Sen. Fitzpatrick
09:13:23 Sen. Boland
09:13:35 Sen. Gillespie
09:14:05 Sen. Fitzpatrick
09:16:09 Sen. Pope
09:17:09 Sen. Fitzpatrick
09:17:57 Sen. Pope
09:18:29 Sen. Fitzpatrick

Closing by Sponsor:

09:18:48 Sen. Fitzpatrick

09:19:11 Sen. Fitzpatrick assumed the duties of the chair.

09:19:06 Chair Fitzpatrick

HEARING ON SB 91

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:19:16 Sen. Gordon Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 91, Require fiscal notes to include business impact.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:20:42 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
09:22:09 Sen. Vance speaking for Bridger Mahlum on behalf of the Montana Chamber of Commerce.
09:22:27 Sen. Fitzpatrick

Opponents' Testimony:

09:23:06 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center

[EXHIBIT\(bus12a01\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

09:26:29 Ryan Evans, Governor's Office of Budget & Program Planning (OBPP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:27:09 Sen. Gillespie
09:27:50 Sen. Vance
09:28:10 Sen. Gillespie
09:28:43 Sen. Vance
09:29:21 Sen. Gillespie
09:29:29 Sen. Gauthier
09:30:09 Sen. Vance
09:30:32 Sen. Gauthier
09:30:59 Sen. Boland
09:31:09 Sen. Vance
09:31:22 Sen. Pope
09:32:25 Sen. Vance
09:32:47 Sen. Pope
09:33:28 Sen. Small
09:34:09 Mr. Evans, OBPP
09:35:37 Chair Fitzpatrick
09:35:56 Mr. Evans
09:36:18 Chair Fitzpatrick
09:36:36 Mr. Evans
09:37:25 Chair Fitzpatrick
09:37:55 Mr. Evans
09:38:14 Sen. Gauthier
09:38:43 Mr. Evans

Closing by Sponsor:

09:39:21 Sen. Vance

09:40:24 Chair Fitzpatrick

HEARING ON HB 79

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:40:48 Rep. Mark Noland (R), HD 10, opened the hearing on HB 79, Revised definition of beer to include other fermented-style beverages.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:43:31 Melissa Lewis, Molson Coors Beverage Company
[EXHIBIT\(bus12a02\)](#)

09:46:05 Pat Noonan, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association
09:46:59 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association
09:47:42 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association
09:48:19 Matt Leow, executive director, Montana Brewers Association
[EXHIBIT\(bus12a03\)](#)

09:50:09 Becky Schlauch, Department of Revenue

Additional testimonies received:

[EXHIBIT\(bus12a04\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:51:41 Sen. Gillespie

09:52:25 Ms. Lewis, Molson Coors

Closing by Sponsor:

09:53:10 Rep. Noland

09:53:52 Chair Fitzpatrick

09:54:39 Recess

10:00:15 Reconvene

10:00:16 Chair Fitzpatrick

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 90

10:00:30 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 90 DO PASS.**

10:00:31 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 90 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(bus12a05)

Discussion:

10:00:52 Sen. Small

10:01:27 Chair Fitzpatrick

10:01:50 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. C. Smith were excused.

10:02:07 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 90 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. C. Smith were excused.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 97

10:02:30 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 97 DO PASS.** Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. C. Smith were excused. .

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 102

10:03:23 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 102 DO PASS.** Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. C. Smith were excused.

10:03:51 Chair Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:04 A.M.

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

oh

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus12aad.pdf](#))