

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Douglas (Doug) Kary, on January 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary, Chair (R)
Sen. Bryce Bennett, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Branch
Monte Cole, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Jacelyn Sterling, Committee Secretary

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 15, 1/18/2021; SB 93, 1/18/2021; SB 92, 1/18/2021; SB 89, 1/22/2021

Committee Business:

15:02:08 Sen. Ellis
15:02:23 Chair Kary

HEARING ON SB 92

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:02:44 Sen. Gordon Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB92, Disallow appointed county election administrators.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:04:18 Dana Corson, elections director, Secretary of State (SOS)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:08:58 Bill Bullock, commissioner, Carbon County

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a01\)](#)

15:11:09 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a02\)](#)

15:15:27 William Barron, sheriff, Lake County; Lake County Commissioners

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a03\)](#)

15:18:18 Denis Pitman, Yellowstone County commissioner

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a04\)](#)

15:18:55 Bret Rutherford, election administrator, Yellowstone County

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a05\)](#)

15:20:15 Regina Plettenberg, election administrator, Ravalli County; Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a06\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a07\)](#)

Additional Proponent:

15:22:08 Sen. Bruce Gillespie, SD 9

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:24:55 Sen. Vance

HEARING ON SB 93

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:25:35 Sen. Gordon Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB93, Revise provisions related to poll watchers.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:27:03 Clinton King
15:34:08 Dana Corson, Secretary of State
15:36:15 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a08\)**](#)

15:38:29 Sen. Bennett

Additional Testimony Received:

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a09\)**](#)

Informational Testimony:

15:39:07 Jeff Mangan, Commissioner of Political Practices
15:39:55 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a10\)**](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a11\)**](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:41:10 Sen. Vance

HEARING ON SB 15

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:41:32 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SB15, Revise election laws related to accessibility for disabled electors.

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a12\)**](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:54:52 Katjana Stutzer Montana Public Interest Research Group
15:55:46 Sam Forstag, American Civil Liberties Union Montana (ACLU)
15:56:49 Ruthie Barbour, Forward Montana

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a13\)**](#)

15:57:56 Beth Brenneman, Disabilities Rights Montana

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a14\)**](#)

15:59:28 Margaret Bentwood, League of Woman Voters of Montana

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a15\)**](#)

16:00:49 Travis Hoffman, Summit Independent Living

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a16\)**](#)

16:03:32 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders; Election Administrator

[**EXHIBIT\(sts16a17\)**](#)

16:06:11 Joy Breslauer, vice president, National Federation of the Blind of Montana
[EXHIBIT\(sts16a18\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a19\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:09:23 Dana Corson, Secretary of State

16:09:46 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a20\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a21\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:10:09 Sen. Sales

16:10:36 Sen. Ellis

Closing by Sponsor:

16:11:20 Sen. Ellis

HEARING ON SB 89

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:12:22 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB89, Revise laws related to collection of union dues.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:18:54 Patrick Webb, Americans for Prosperity Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

16:22:09 Amanda Curtis, president, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a22\)](#)

16:30:46 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association

16:32:36 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO)

16:37:00 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council

16:38:29 Eric Anderson, Montana Nurses Association

16:40:15 John Johnson, Operating Engineers, Local 400

16:41:05 Luke Hoffer, IBEW Local 233

16:41:30 Carter Marsh, Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters

16:44:11 Kim Rickard-Smeltzer, business manager, Labors Local 1686

16:45:39 Joel Worth, Montana Carpenters Union

16:46:34 Derek Hitt, Montana Carpenters Union

16:47:35 Timm Twardoski, executive director, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Montana Council 9

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a23\)](#)

16:51:15 Vicky Byrd

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a24\)](#)

16:54:27 Amy Hauschild

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a25\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sts16a26\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:56:04 Sen. Bennett
17:01:16 Ms. Curtis, MFPE
17:01:45 Chair Kary
17:03:02 Mr. Twardoski, AFSCME
17:03:42 Chair Kary
17:04:23 Ms. Curtis
17:05:14 Chair Kary
17:06:34 Ms. Byrd
17:06:43 Chair Kary

Closing by Sponsor:

17:07:02 Sen. Regier

Committee Business:

17:09:06 Chair Kary

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:10 PM

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sts16aad.pdf](#))