

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on January 26, 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. Mike Fox (D)
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. 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 117, 1/20/2021; SB 118, 1/20/2021; SB 121, 1/20/2021

HEARING ON SB 117

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:00:34 Sen. Tom Jacobson (D), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB117, Generally revise laws governing the Housing Montana Fund.

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:02:58 John MacDonald, Montana League of Cities and Towns

09:04:01 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association

09:05:23 Sheila Rice, Montana Board of Housing (MBH)

09:07:30 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

09:08:38 Cheryl Cohen, executive director, Montana Board of Housing, Department of Commerce

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a02\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:09:02 Chair Fitzpatrick

09:09:30 Sen. Jacobson

09:10:18 Sen. Gauthier

09:10:43 Sen. Jacobson

09:12:08 Ms. Rice, MBH

09:13:15 Sen. Gauthier

09:14:05 Ms. Rice

09:16:05 Sen. Gillespie

09:16:52 Ms. Rice

Closing by Sponsor:

09:17:25 Sen. Jacobson

HEARING ON SB 121

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:18:24 Sen. Tom Jacobson (D), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB121, Revise definition of acupuncture to reflect modern techniques and standards.

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:20:47 Jennifer Holloman, Montana Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AOM)

09:22:50 Tanja Brekke, Montana Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:25:30 Sen. Sweeney
09:25:51 Ms. Holloman, AOM
09:26:28 Sen. Boland
09:27:11 Sen. Jacobson
09:29:19 Chair Fitzpatrick
09:29:36 Sen. Gillespie
09:30:14 Ms. Holloman

Closing by Sponsor:

09:31:08 Sen. Jacobson

09:31:41 Sen. Boland

HEARING ON SB 118

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:31:56 Sen. Terry Gauthier (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB118, Revise laws relating to false statements to employers and workers' compensation.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:37:48 Jackie Jones, Office of the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
09:38:43 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association
09:39:41 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Small Business Association, Helena Chamber of Commerce (COC)
09:40:47 Mark Baker, attorney; Kalispell Regional Healthcare; Kalispell Chamber of Commerce; Montana Wood Products Association; Terry Kramer Enterprises

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a04\)](#)

09:42:09 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
09:43:46 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Bankers Association, Community Medical Center
09:44:26 Mark Taylor, Montana Hospital Association
09:45:14 Brad Roy, Kalispell Regional Healthcare

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a05\)](#)

09:49:45 Lorraine Clarno, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a06\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a07\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

09:51:00 Stacy Tempel-St. John, Fair Claim Lawyers
10:03:00 Lucas Wallace, attorney, Odegaard Braukmann Law

[EXHIBIT\(bus17a08\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

10:09:20 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund (MSF)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:09:42 Sen. Boland
10:10:34 Sen. Gauthier
10:11:01 Sen. Boland
10:11:36 Sen. Pope
10:12:19 Mr. Braun, MSF
10:12:46 Sen. Pope
10:14:21 Mr. Braun
10:15:22 Sen. Gillespie
10:16:02 Ms. Tempel-St. John, attorney
10:18:16 Sen. Gillespie
10:18:37 Mr. Braun
10:19:03 Sen. Gillespie
10:19:53 Mr. Braun
10:20:28 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:20:51 Mr. Braun
10:23:21 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:23:40 Mr. Braun
10:23:51 Sen. Boland
10:24:54 Mr. Braun
10:25:05 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:25:32 Mr. Braun
10:25:49 Sen. Pope
10:26:46 Sen. Gauthier
10:28:23 Sen. Pope
10:28:52 Sen. Gauthier
10:30:22 Sen. Pope
10:31:28 Sen. Gauthier
10:32:41 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:33:17 Mr. Braun
10:33:33 Sen. Pope
10:34:33 Mr. Braun

Closing by Sponsor:

10:35:55 Sen. Gauthier

10:36:14 Chair Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:37 A.M.

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus17aad.pdf](#))