

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on January 26, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Mary McNally, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Brad Molnar (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lauren de Paepe, Committee Secretary
Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch
Jacquie Simmons, 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:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 84, 1/18/2021
Executive Action: SB 81, SB 59

15:02:42 Chair Ankney gave the responsibilities of the chair to Vice Chair Small.

15:02:47 Sen. Cuffe left the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 84

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:03:20 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB84, Generally revise consumer committee laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

15:07:46 Adrienne Cotton, American Association of Retired Persons

15:09:18 Makenna Sellers, Northern Plains Resource Council

15:11:11 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center

15:16:06 Sue Malek, former Senate Energy and Telecommunications committee member;
former Montana Consumer Counsel member

Additional Testimony Received:

[**EXHIBIT\(ens17a01\)**](#)

Informational Testimony:

15:28:02 Bob Nelson, Montana Consumer Counsel

15:28:13 Sen. Kary left the meeting.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:29:46 Sen. McNally

15:30:26 Mr. Nelson, Consumer Counsel

15:32:07 Sen. Regier

15:32:33 Sen. Ankney

15:32:36 Sen. Regier

15:32:52 Trevor Graff, Legislative Services Division

[**EXHIBIT\(ens17a02\)**](#)

15:33:23 Sen. Pope

15:39:43 Sen. Kary entered the meeting.

15:40:21 Sen. Ankney

15:40:40 Sen. McNally

15:42:14 Sen. Ankney

15:43:41 Sen. McNally

15:44:24 Chair Small

15:44:54 Sen. Ankney

Closing by Sponsor:

15:45:15 Sen. Ankney

Discussion:

15:47:30 Sen. Ankney
15:47:38 Chair Small
15:48:12 Mr. Nelson

15:48:20 Chair Ankney resumed the role of chair.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 81

15:49:25 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 81 DO PASS.**

15:49:54 **Motion:** Sen. Regier moved that **SB 81 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(ens17a03)

Discussion:

15:50:11 Sen. Regier

15:50:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe and Sen. Molnar voted by proxy.

15:51:18 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 81 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:51:32 Sen. Regier
15:52:16 Sen. Pope

15:52:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe and Sen. Molnar voted by proxy.

Discussion:

15:53:33 Sen. Regier
15:53:44 Trevor Graff, Legislative Services Division
15:54:02 Sen. McNally
15:54:32 Mr. Graff

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 59

15:54:42 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 59 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:54:53 Sen. McNally

15:55:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe and Sen. Molnar voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:55 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens17aad.pdf](#))