

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

**Call to Order:** Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on January 29, 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. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Mike Fox (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 137, 1/25/2021; SB 144, 1/25/2021

Executive Action: HB 19, HB 74, SB 129

08:59:28 Chair Fitzpatrick  
08:59:53 Sen. Vance assumed the duties of the chair.  
08:59:54 Chair Vance

**HEARING ON SB 144**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:00:05 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB144, Remove term limits for board of real estate appraisers.  
09:01:53 Sen. Pope entered the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:02:48 Sen. Boland  
09:03:24 Sen. Fitzpatrick  
09:03:57 Sen. Boland  
09:04:13 Sen. Pope  
09:04:35 Sen. Fitzpatrick

**EXHIBIT(bus20a01)**

09:05:22 Sen. Boland  
09:05:54 Sen. Fitzpatrick

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:06:25 Sen. Fitzpatrick

**HEARING ON SB 137**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:06:55 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB137, Establishing requirements for transparency in prescription drug costs.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:08:51 John Doran, vice president, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT)  
**EXHIBIT(bus20a02)**

09:15:35 Jennifer Hensely, PacificSource Health Plan  
**EXHIBIT(bus20a03)**

09:21:04 Quinn Leighton  
**EXHIBIT(bus20a04)**

09:27:21 Adrienne Cotton, American Association of Retired Persons  
09:29:32 Richard Miltenberger, president, Montana Health Co-op  
09:32:38 Matt Kuntz, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Montana  
09:34:58 Stuart Doggett, Montana Pharmacy Association  
09:35:37 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association  
09:37:24 Bruce Spencer, attorney

**EXHIBIT(bus20a05)**

09:39:50 Brad Griffin, president, Montana Retail Association  
09:40:21 Sean Slanger, American Health Insurance Plans  
09:41:52 Greg Van Horssen, Prime Therapeutics  
09:42:28 Alanna Wulf, Big Sky 55+  
09:43:49 Alex Ward, Billings

Additional Testimony Received:

**EXHIBIT(bus20a06)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:46:54 Dennis Iverson, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacture of Montana  
(PHRMA)

**EXHIBIT(bus20a07)**

09:49:04 Brian Warren, Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

**EXHIBIT(bus20a08)**

**Informational Testimony:**

09:55:04 Jackie Jones, Office of the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities  
and Insurance (CSI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:57:16 Sen. Gillespie  
09:58:47 Mr. Iverson, PHRMA  
10:00:41 Sen. Gauthier  
10:01:09 Mr. Warren, BIO  
10:01:43 Sen. Gauthier  
10:02:12 Mr. Iverson  
10:05:45 Sen Gauthier  
10:05:56 Mr. Iverson  
10:06:23 Sen. Sweeney  
10:07:28 Mr. Iverson  
10:07:48 Sen. Pope  
10:08:35 Ms. Jones, CSI  
10:10:07 Sen. Pope  
10:11:58 Mr. Spencer, attorney  
10:14:18 Sen. Pope  
10:14:59 Mr. Doran, BCBSMT  
10:16:53 Sen. Gauthier  
10:17:42 Ms. Jones  
10:18:55 Sen. Sweeney  
10:20:06 Mr. Iverson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:20:44 Sen. Fitzpatrick  
10:21:14 Sen. Fitzpatrick assumed the duties of the chair.  
10:21:18 Chair Fitzpatrick  
10:22:32 Recess  
10:31:50 Reconvene  
10:31:54 Chair Fitzpatrick

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 19**

10:32:00 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 19 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. C. Smith were excused. Sen. Fitzpatrick will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 74**

10:32:44 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 74 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. C. Smith were excused. Sen. Gillespie will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 129**

10:33:26 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 129 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

10:33:39 Sen. Pope  
10:36:20 Sen. Gauthier  
10:37:03 Sen. Gillespie  
10:37:43 Sen. Boland  
10:39:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Pope, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voting no. Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. C. Smith voted by proxy.  
10:39:51 Chair Fitzpatrick

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:40 A.M.

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Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([bus20aad.pdf](#))