

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Vice Chair John Esp, on February 3, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Terry Gauthier, Chair (R)
Sen. John Esp, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Carlie Boland (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Izmerai Alvarado, Committee Secretary
Toni Henneman, Legislative Branch
Monte Cole, 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 161, 2/1/2021; SB 165, 2/1/2021; SB 171, 2/1/2021; HB 104,
2/1/2021

Vice Chair Boldman assumed the duties of the Chair.

HEARING ON SB 161

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:02:50 Sen. John Esp (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB161, Allow certain subdivisions to qualify for an expedited review.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:04:42 Alan McCormick, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)
15:12:46 Spencer Woith, Woith Engineering; Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)
15:14:35 Abigail St. Lawrence, MBIA

15:14:57 Sen. Ellsworth entered the meeting.

15:15:26 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Relators
15:20:14 Adam Hertz, Missoula

15:24:48 Sen. Gauthier entered the meeting and assumed the duties of the Chair.

15:25:00 Charles Lapp, Kalispell

15:27:20 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns
[EXHIBIT\(los23a01\)](#)

15:31:33 Kevin Smith, Department of Environmental Quality

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los23a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:32:28 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition; Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
15:35:28 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
15:36:22 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association
15:38:06 Jim Brown, Five Valleys Audubon Society
[EXHIBIT\(los23a03\)](#)

15:40:14 Sean O'Callaghan, Gallatin County
[EXHIBIT\(los23a04\)](#)

15:47:13 Lucinda Reinold, Pray
[EXHIBIT\(los23a05\)](#)

15:49:21 Kate McMahon, Whitefish
[EXHIBIT\(los23a06\)](#)

15:50:25 Michelle Uberuage, Park County Environmental Council
[EXHIBIT\(los23a07\)](#)

15:53:19 Robert Horne, Whitefish

[EXHIBIT\(los23a08\)](#)

15:57:21 Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center

15:58:35 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

16:01:03 Mayre Flowers, Montana Smart Growth Coalition

16:03:43 Joe Skinner, Gallatin County Commission

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los23a09\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:06:55 Sen. Friedel

16:07:31 Sen. Esp

16:08:13 Sen. Friedel

16:08:34 Mr. McCormick, MAR

16:11:15 Sen. Friedel

16:11:51 Mr. McCormick

16:13:34 Sen. Pope

16:15:29 Mr. McCormick

16:16:38 Sen. Pope

16:16:48 Sen. Esp

16:17:17 Sen. Pope

16:17:52 Sen. Esp

Closing by Sponsor:

16:18:09 Sen. Esp

HEARING ON HB 104

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:18:59 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB104, Revise county leasing authority.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:20:23 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:21:35 Dave Strohmaier, Missoula Board of County Commissioners

[EXHIBIT\(los23a10\)](#)

16:23:32 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development

[EXHIBIT\(los23a11\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:25:13 Sen. Friedel

16:25:53 Rep. Malone
16:26:31 Sen. Friedel
16:27:18 Mr. Bryson, MACo
16:29:03 Sen. Pope
16:30:10 Mr. Bryson
16:31:24 Sen. Morigeau
16:32:15 Mr. Strohmaier, Missoula

Closing by Sponsor:

16:33:42 Rep. Malone

HEARING ON SB 171

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:34:16 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB171, Increasing county procurement options with cooperative purchasing agreements.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:36:07 Bill Otto, SourceWell

[EXHIBIT\(los23a12\)](#)

16:37:23 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties

16:38:43 Denis Pitman, Yellowstone County commissioner

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:39:38 Sen. Pope

16:40:23 Mr. Otto, SourceWell

Closing by Sponsor:

16:41:47 Sen. Friedel

HEARING ON SB 165

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:43:44 Sen. Carl Glimm (R), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB165, Generally revise laws related to the department of environmental quality.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:49:13 Jeff Larson, Montana Environmental Consultants Association

[EXHIBIT\(los23a13\)](#)

16:58:07 Rick Breckenridge, Proctor

17:00:31 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association

17:01:09 Nathan Lucke, Big Fork

17:03:54 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

17:04:32 Buck Breckenridge, Kalispell

17:06:19 Ron Warren, land surveyor
17:09:04 Barbara Kingery, Helena
17:10:58 Tobias Liechti, Lakeside
17:13:56 Robert Keibler, Columbia Falls
17:16:45 Darwon Stoneman, Glacier Raft Company

[EXHIBIT\(los23a14\)](#)

17:18:07 Jamie Reed, Columbia Falls
17:20:54 Olaf Ervin, Columbia Falls
17:22:27 Brent Foley, Kalispell
17:25:16 John Brenden, Scobey

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los23a15\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:28:15 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties
17:30:10 John Rundquist, Helena

17:32:48 Brief Recess
17:35:32 Reconvene

17:35:47 Kathleen McMahon, Whitefish

[EXHIBIT\(los23a16\)](#)

17:38:10 Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center

17:39:05 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns

[EXHIBIT\(los23a17\)](#)

17:41:25 Sharron Therriault, Montana Environmental Health Association

17:44:12 Jared Sousa, Citizens for a Better Flathead

[EXHIBIT\(los23a18\)](#)

17:44:54 Mayre Flowers, Montana Smart Growth Coalition

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los23a19\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

17:47:16 Kevin Smith, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:47:53 Sen. Esp
17:48:18 Sen. Glimm
17:49:00 Sen. Esp
17:49:23 Sen. Friedel
17:50:08 Mr. Smith, DEQ
17:51:38 Sen. Friedel

17:52:03 Mr. Smith
17:52:58 Sen. Pope
17:54:00 Sen. Glimm
17:55:22 Sen. Esp
17:57:09 Mr. Smith
17:57:29 Sen. Esp
17:58:03 Mr. Smith
17:58:35 Sen. Esp
17:59:07 Mr. Smith
17:59:45 Sen. Esp
18:00:09 Sen. Glimm
18:01:22 Sen. Morigeau
18:02:28 Ms. McMahon, Whitefish
18:03:28 Sen. Morigeau
18:05:49 Robert Horne, Whitefish
18:06:47 Sen. Morigeau
18:07:24 Chair Gauthier
18:07:37 Sen. Ellsworth
18:08:09 Sen. Glimm
18:08:49 Chair Gauthier
18:08:55 Mr. Smith
18:10:22 Sen. Pope
18:11:22 Sen. Friedel
18:11:46 Chair Gauthier

Closing by Sponsor:

18:11:53 Sen. Glimm

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:13 PM

Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los23aad.pdf](#))