

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on February 5, 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. Cary Smith (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)

**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 167, 2/1/2021; SB 166, 2/2/2021; SB 149, 2/2/2021; HB 63, 2/2/2021

Executive Action: HB 80, SB 137, SB 144, SB 156

**HEARING ON HB 63**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:01:47 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB63, Generally revise insurance laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:03:43 Bob Biskupiak, Office of the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

09:07:24 Bruce Spencer, Mountain Health Co-Op

09:10:10 John Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Montana

09:11:08 Jon Metropoulos, American Council of Life Insurers, Farmers Insurance Group

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:12:26 Rep. Dooling

**HEARING ON SB 149**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:14:16 Sen. Tom McGillvray (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB149, Exempt health care sharing ministries from insurance laws.

**[EXHIBIT\(bus25a01\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:23:38 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation

09:28:26 Jackie Jones, Office of Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

09:30:43 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity

09:31:31 Sen. Smith

09:33:43 Keith Hopkinson, Christian Healthcare Ministries (CHM)

09:38:33 Joel Noble, Samaritan Ministries

**[EXHIBIT\(bus25a02\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:41:22 Shannee Tracey, director, Christian Care Ministry

09:43:26 Jenny Aghamalian, Sedera

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:50:16 Sen. Vance

09:50:34 Sen. McGillvray

09:53:13 Sen. Vance

09:53:26 Ms. Aghamalian, Sedera

09:55:16 Sen. Gillespie  
 09:56:47 Sen. McGillvray  
 09:57:04 Mr. Hopkinson, CHM  
 09:58:53 Sen. Gillespie  
 09:59:16 Mr. Hopkinson  
 09:59:44 Sen. Gillespie  
 10:00:05 Mr. Hopkinson  
 10:03:52 Chair Fitzpatrick  
 10:04:09 Mr. Hopkinson  
 10:05:42 Chair Fitzpatrick  
 10:06:01 Mr. Hopkinson  
 10:08:17 Sen. Pope  
 10:09:29 Ms. Jones, CSI  
 10:11:35 Sen. Pope  
 10:12:38 Ms. Jones  
 10:14:32 Sen. Pope  
 10:15:40 Ms. Jones  
 10:16:16 Sen. Vance  
 10:16:29 Ms. Jones  
 10:17:01 Sen. Vance  
 10:17:13 Sen. Boland  
 10:18:29 Sen. McGillvray  
 10:18:43 Sen. Boland  
 10:20:48 Sen. McGillvray  
 10:21:27 Sen. Boland  
 10:21:55 Mr. Hopkinson  
 10:22:35 Sen. Boland  
 10:23:08 Mr. Hopkinson  
 10:23:33 Chair Fitzpatrick

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:23:57 Sen. McGillvray  
 10:28:54 Sen. Vance assumed the duties of the chair.

**HEARING ON SB 167**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:29:01 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB167, Remove termination date for medical malpractice-related portions of the HELP Act.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:33:05 Jessie Luther, Montana Hospital Association  
 10:35:38 Aimee Grmoljez, Billings Clinic and Community Medical Center  
 10:38:12 Greg Dorrington, Montana Medical Association, Montana Defense Trial Lawyers

**EXHIBIT(bus25a03)**

10:42:35 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce  
 10:43:05 Joe Schimenti, Yellowstone Insurance Exchange

**Opponents' Testimony:**

10:44:16 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:48:14 Sen. Fitzpatrick

10:48:32 Sen. Small entered the meeting.

10:48:56 Sen. Fitzpatrick assumed the duties of the chair.

**HEARING ON SB 166**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:49:06 Sen. Terry Gauthier (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB166, Generally revise laws related to licensed addiction counselors.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:52:28 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association

10:55:44 Janet Woodburn, Sapphire Community Health

**[EXHIBIT\(bus25a04\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

10:58:46 Lucy Richards, executive officer, Department of Labor and Industry

**[EXHIBIT\(bus25a05\)](#)**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:59:26 Sen. Gauthier

10:59:46 Chair Fitzpatrick

11:00:35 Recess

11:11:03 Reconvene

11:11:08 Chair Fitzpatrick

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 80**

11:11:09 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 80 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth was excused. Sen. Small will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 137**

11:11:57 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 137 DO PASS.**

11:12:08 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 137 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT(bus25a06)**

11:12:24 Chair Fitzpatrick

11:12:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth was excused.

11:13:08 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 137 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 144**

11:13:40 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 144 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:13:50 Sen. Sweeney

11:14:17 Sen. Small

11:14:42 Sen. Pope

11:15:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, Sen. Small and Sen. Sweeney voting no. Sen. Ellsworth voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 156**

11:15:57 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 156 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:16:14 Sen. Vance

11:16:21 Sen. Pope

11:16:32 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth was excused.

11:16:43 Chair Fitzpatrick

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:17 A.M.

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Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([bus25aad.pdf](#))