

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Call to Order:** Chair Keith Regier, on February 11, 2021 at 9:00 AM, in Room 303  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Keith Regier, Chair (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bryce Bennett (D)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. John Esp (R)  
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)  
Sen. Jen Gross (D)  
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Diane Sands, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Branch  
Taylor Tyson, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Jacelyn Sterling, Committee Secretary

**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 178, 2/8/2021; HB 144, 2/8/2021; HB 73, 2/8/2021

**HEARING ON HB 144**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:02:14 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB144, Revise laws for preserving authority of sheriffs, constables, and peace officers.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:04:38 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)  
09:06:15 Jesse Slaughter, Cascade County; Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association  
09:08:19 Scott Boulanger, Association of Montana Troopers  
09:08:59 Donna Elford, Helena  
09:13:33 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
09:14:23 Henry Krigel, Americans For Prosperity

**Opponents' Testimony:**

[EXHIBIT\(jus29a01\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:17:00 Sen. Manzella  
09:17:40 Mr. Thompson, MSPOA  
09:18:22 Sen. Webber  
09:19:57 Mr. Slaughter  
09:20:32 Sen. Webber  
09:21:00 Mr. Slaughter  
09:22:18 Chair Regier  
09:23:29 Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:23:47 Rep Fielder

**HEARING ON HB 73**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:25:19 Rep. Barry Usher (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB73, Generally revise laws related to the criminal justice oversight council.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:28:31 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

**Additional Testimony Received:**

[EXHIBIT\(jus29a02\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:29:33 Sen. Friedel  
09:32:29 Rep. Usher  
09:33:12 Sen. Friedel  
09:33:16 Chair Regier  
09:35:25 Rep. Usher  
09:36:32 Sen. Sands  
09:37:19 Rep. Usher  
09:37:57 Sen. Hinebauch  
09:38:21 Rep. Usher  
09:38:38 Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Services Division  
09:38:55 Sen. Brown  
09:39:11 Rep. Usher  
09:39:42 Chair Regier  
09:40:00 Sen. Gross  
09:40:53 Rep. Usher  
09:42:10 Sen. Gross

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:42:24 Rep. Usher

**HEARING ON SB 178****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:43:09 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB178, Prohibiting state building codes from requiring mandatory fire sprinklers.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:47:26 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association  
09:51:37 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:52:58 Joel Gaertig Montana State Firemen's Association (MSFA); Montana Professional Firefighters

09:53:56 Josh Waldo, fire chief, City of Bozeman

09:55:24 Michael Spini, fire marshal, Billings Fire Department

**[EXHIBIT\(jus29a03\)](#)**

09:59:34 Ron Lindroth, Montana State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA)

**[EXHIBIT\(jus29a04\)](#)**

10:03:52 Dax Fraser, fire marshal, Missoula Fire Department (MFD)

10:07:02 Jessica Iverson, building official, City of Billings Building Division

**[EXHIBIT\(jus29a05\)](#)**

10:09:59 Richard Cowger, fire chief, Columbus; Montana Fire Alliance

**[EXHIBIT\(jus29a06\)](#)**

10:12:49 Greg Watts, Fire Sprinkler Fitters Local 669

**[EXHIBIT\(jus29a07\)](#)**

Additional Testimony Received:[EXHIBIT\(jus29a08\)](#)Informational Testimony:

10:17:22 Eric Copeland, bureau chief, Business Standards Division, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

[EXHIBIT\(jus29a09\)](#)Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:18:04 Sen. Manzella  
10:18:57 Mr. Waldo, Bozeman  
10:19:15 Sen. Manzella  
10:20:06 Mr. Lindroth, MSFCA  
10:22:23 Sen. Bennett  
10:23:02 Sen. Friedel  
10:23:32 Sen. Hinebauch  
10:24:30 Sen. Friedel  
10:24:54 Sen. Gross  
10:27:01 Sen. Friedel  
10:27:06 Sen. Manzella  
10:27:53 Mr. Watts, Local 669 JATC - Montana  
10:28:32 Sen. Brown  
10:29:32 Mr. Copeland, DLI BSD  
10:30:07 Sen. Brown  
10:30:47 Sen. Friedel  
10:31:30 Sen. Esp  
10:34:41 Mr. Fraser, MFD  
10:35:07 Sen. Esp  
10:35:32 Sen. Webber  
10:36:55 Sen. Friedel  
10:37:45 Chair Regier  
10:38:08 Mr. Gaertig, MSFA  
10:38:15 Chair Regier

Closing by Sponsor:

10:38:35 Sen. Friedel

10:41:41 Recess

11:00:13 Reconvened

Committee Business:

11:00:15 Chair Regier

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:01 AM

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([jus29aad.pdf](#))**