

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chair Terry Gauthier, on February 15, 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. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (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 174, 2/5/2021; SB 231, 2/12/202

Executive Action: SB 164 - Do Pass

HEARING ON SB 174

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:01:57 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB174, Revise laws related to local subdivision review.

[EXHIBIT\(los31a01\)](#)

15:02:10 President Blasdel entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:05:26 Mark Taylor, Taylor Luther Group (TLG)

15:09:26 Mike Hope, Aspen Land, LLC

[EXHIBIT\(los31a02\)](#)

15:11:47 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association

15:12:38 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

15:13:46 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:14:30 Brian Thompson, Montana Contractors Association

Opponents' Testimony:

15:15:35 Krista Lee Evens, Senior Water Rights Coalition; Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators

15:16:45 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:17:26 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

15:18:19 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

[EXHIBIT\(los31a03\)](#)

15:22:38 Wyeth Friday, City of Billings

[EXHIBIT\(los31a04\)](#)

15:26:18 Tara DePuy, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

[EXHIBIT\(los31a05\)](#)

15:30:11 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center

15:32:43 Sean O'Callaghan, Montana Association of Planners

[EXHIBIT\(los31a06\)](#)

15:37:48 Sen. Fitzpatrick entered the meeting.

15:38:11 Rebecca Elderkin, Condon

[EXHIBIT\(los31a07\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los31a08\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:42:13 Sen. Esp
15:42:55 Sen. Hertz
15:43:10 Sen Esp
15:43:36 Ms. Lynch, MLCT
15:45:09 Sen. Esp
15:45:28 Ms. Lynch
15:45:55 Sen. Pope
15:47:06 Sen. Hertz
15:47:28 Mr. Taylor, TLG
15:49:09 Sen. Pope
15:50:06 Ms. DePuy, MACo
15:51:21 Sen. Pope
15:51:54 Ms. DePuy
15:52:53 Sen. Pope
15:53:20 Ms. DePuy
15:54:16 Sen. Esp
15:54:56 Sen. Hertz

Closing by Sponsor:

15:55:16 Sen. Hertz

HEARING ON SB 231

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:59:13 Sen. Mark Blasdel (R), SD 4, opened the hearing on SB231, Revise exempt well laws related to family transfer parcels.

[EXHIBIT\(los31a09\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:03:24 Mark Taylor, Taylor Luther Group (TLG) speaking for Matt Cottle

[EXHIBIT\(los31a10\)](#)

16:07:29 Terry Nelson, Ravalli County

Opponents' Testimony:

16:11:31 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition; Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators

16:12:58 Tara DePuy, Montana Association of Counties, Property and Casualty Trust

[EXHIBIT\(los31a11\)](#)

16:20:33 Andrew Gorder, Clark Fork Coalition

16:22:16 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns

[EXHIBIT\(los31a12\)](#)

16:27:34 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los31a13\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

16:29:56 Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:30:44 Sen. Boldman
16:32:18 Mr. Taylor, TLG
16:35:35 Sen. Pope
16:36:30 Mr. Taylor

Closing by Sponsor:

16:37:43 Sen. Blasdel

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 165

16:39:01 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 165 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:42:05 Sen. Pope

16:44:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Morigeau and Sen. Pope voting no. Sen. Ellsworth voted by proxy.

16:45:15 Sen. Esp
16:45:38 Chair Gauthier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:49 PM

Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los31aad.pdf](#))