

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Douglas (Doug) Kary, on February 15, 2021 at 2:53 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary, Chair (R)
Sen. Bryce Bennett, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Branch
Alex Colafrancesco, 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 196, 2/4/2021; SB 162, 2/4/2021; HB 159, 2/4/2021; HB 176, 2/4/2021

Executive Action: SR 21 Be Tabled; SR 26 Be Tabled; SR 14 Be Not Adopted; SB 175 Do Pass

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 26

14:54:05 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 26 BE TABLED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Fox voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 14

14:54:44 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 14 BE NOT ADOPTED**.

Discussion:

14:55:26 Chair Kary

14:56:25 Sen. Bennett

14:57:48 Sen. Fox entered the meeting.

14:57:53 Chair Kary

14:58:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 5-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis, and Sen. Fox voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 21

14:58:27 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 21 BE ADOPTED**.

14:58:33 **Motion:** Sen. Kary moved that **SR 21 BE AMENDED**.

[EXHIBIT\(sts31a01\)](#)

Discussion:

14:59:56 Sen. Bennett

15:00:15 Chair Kary

15:02:11 Sen. Vance

15:02:18 Sen. Bennett

15:03:05 Chair Kary

15:03:11 Sen. Bennett

15:03:30 Without objection, Sen. Vance withdrew the **BE ADOPTED** motion.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 23

15:03:39 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 23 BE ADOPTED**.

Discussion:

15:03:46 Chair Kary

15:04:17 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Bennett moved that **SR 23 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

[EXHIBIT\(sts31a02\)](#)

15:05:09 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 23 BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED**.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. (Bill not reported out of committee)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 175

15:05:45 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 175 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

15:06:05 Sen. Bennett

15:06:18 Sen. Vance

15:06:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion:

15:08:00 Sen. Ellis

15:08:21 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:08:41 Chair Kary

15:09:05 Ms. Aldrich, LSD

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 21

15:09:38 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 21 DO PASS**.

15:10:05 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 21 BE AMENDED**. (see exhibit 1)

Discussion:

15:10:29 Chair Kary

15:11:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:11:10 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved to **WITHDRAW THE DO PASS MOTION**.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion:

15:11:37 Sen. Ellis

15:12:46 Chair Kary

15:13:09 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SR 21 BE TABLED**. Motion carried
unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON SB 162

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:14:16 Sen. David Howard (R), SD 29, opened the hearing on SB162, Exempting
religious organizations from certain campaign finance laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:18:02 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

15:23:24 Sen Ellis

15:23:30 Sen. Osmundson left the meeting.
15:23:45 Mr. Laszloffy, MFF
15:24:05 Ed Halland, Richard
15:25:21 Alan Doane, Department of Justice
15:26:03 Chad Hesler, pastor, Canyon Ferry Baptist Church

EXHIBIT(sts31a03)

15:29:06 David Dellinger, citizen
15:30:58 Bob Leach, Canyon Ferry Baptist Church
15:34:26 Phillip Fingar, citizen
15:35:42 Mike Raczkowski, Helena

Opponents' Testimony:

15:38:17 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees
15:39:27 Richard Liebert, Great Falls
15:41:35 Liz Moore, executive director, Montana Nonprofit Association

EXHIBIT(sts31a04)

15:46:08 Jaime MacNaughton, Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

EXHIBIT(sts31a05)

15:54:40 Jeff Mangan, COPP
15:55:31 Joel Peden, executive director, Montana Association of Centers for Independent Living

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:01:48 Sen. Bennett
16:02:53 Ms. MacNaughton, COPP

Closing by Sponsor:

16:03:19 Sen. Howard

HEARING ON SB 196

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:04:56 Sen. Tom McGillvray (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB196, Generally revise polling place hours laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:06:17 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County Election Department

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:10:00 Sen. Vance
16:10:17 Mr. Rutherford, Yellowstone County
16:10:39 Sen. Vance
16:10:52 Mr. Rutherford

16:11:25 Sen. Vance
16:11:45 Mr. Rutherford
16:12:18 Chair Kary
16:12:26 Alex Colafrancesco, Remote Meeting Coordinator
16:12:56 Chair Kary

Additional Proponents' Testimony:

16:13:15 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:15:20 Laurie Little Dog, Bozeman

[EXHIBIT\(sts31a06\)](#)

16:16:55 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees

Informational Testimony: None

Additional Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

16:18:10 Sen. Ellis
16:22:02 Ms. Plettenberg, MACR
16:23:38 Sen. Sales
16:24:51 Ms. Plettenberg
16:24:59 Sen. Sales

Closing by Sponsor:

16:25:13 Sen. McGillvray

HEARING ON HB 159

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:26:15 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB159, Revise governor's power to spend certain unanticipated federal funds.

[EXHIBIT\(sts31a07\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:32:50 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity Montana

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:35:47 Sen. Cuffe
16:37:10 Rep. Jones
16:38:42 Sen. Ellis
16:42:37 Rep. Jones
16:45:48 Sen. Bennett
16:46:09 Rep. Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

16:46:41 Rep. Jones

HEARING ON HB 176**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:47:50 Rep. Sharon Greef (R), HD 88, opened the hearing on HB176, Close late voter registration on noon the day before the election.

Chair Kary left the meeting and gave the duties of the chair to Vice Chair Bennett.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:50:29 Dana Corson, director of elections, Montana Secretary of State's office (SOS)

Chair Kary returned to the meeting and resumed the duties of the chair.

16:53:32 Ed Halland, citizen

Opponents' Testimony:

16:55:44 Joel Peden, executive director, Montana Association of Centers for Independent Living (MTCIL)

16:58:29 Sen. Cuffe

16:58:40 Mr. Peden, MTCIL

16:59:29 Audrey McCue, elections supervisor, Lewis and Clark County

17:02:09 Sam Forstag, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

17:03:36 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

17:06:17 Rachel Schmidt, Associated Students of Montana State University

17:08:29 Nancy Leifer, League of Women Voters Montana

EXHIBIT(sts31a08)

17:09:23 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees

EXHIBIT(sts31a09)

17:11:55 Lindsey Roosa, Missoula

EXHIBIT(sts31a10)

17:12:53 Jillian Richards, MontPRIG

17:14:30 Nevin Graves, Missoula

EXHIBIT(sts31a11)

17:15:18 Daniel Eakin Sidney

EXHIBIT(sts31a12)

17:17:43 Ruthie Barbour, Forward Montana

EXHIBIT(sts31a13)

17:19:37 Laurie Little Dog, Bozeman

EXHIBIT(sts31a14)

17:21:02 Alexa Runnion, Missoula

[EXHIBIT\(sts31a15\)](#)

17:22:02 Anna Reely, Missoula

17:24:35 Tor Gudmundsson, Corvallis

[EXHIBIT\(sts31a16\)](#)

17:27:50 Millie Robinson, Northern Plains Resource Council

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sts31a17\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:29:53 Sen. Ellis

17:31:50 Ms. McCue, Lewis and Clark County

17:35:00 Sen. Bennett

17:39:54 Rep. Greef

17:40:33 Sen. Cuffe

17:43:13 Mr. Corson, SOS

17:44:10 Sen. Sales

17:44:42 Mr. Corson

17:45:31 Chair Kary

17:47:25 Mr. Corson

17:47:39 Sen. Ellis

17:50:08 Ms. McCue

17:51:20 Chair Kary

17:52:25 Ms. McCue

17:52:45 Sen. Cuffe

17:53:07 Ms. McCue

17:53:30 Sen. Cuffe

17:53:36 Ms. McCue

17:53:49 Sen. Cuffe

17:54:18 Rep. Greef

17:55:00 Sen. Bennett

17:55:34 Rep. Greef

Closing by Sponsor:

17:56:11 Rep. Greef

Committee Business:

17:58:39 Chair Kary

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:59 PM

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sts31aad.pdf](#))