

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on February 17, 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. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
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: HB 210, 2/11/2021; SB 235, 2/11/2021; SB 207, 2/11/2021; SB 190, 2/11/2021

HEARING ON HB 210

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:00:02 Rep. Moffie Funk (D), HD 82, opened the hearing on HB 210, Provide for licensure of speech-language pathology and audiology assistants.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:02:36 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Speech Language and Hearing Association
[EXHIBIT\(bus33a01\)](#)

09:06:08 Diane Simpson, Board of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists
[EXHIBIT\(bus33a02\)](#)

09:08:11 Shelby Midboe, Montana Speech Language Hearing Association
09:10:35 Julie Wolter; School of Speech, Language, Hearing and Occupational Sciences;
University of Montana

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

09:16:24 Lucy Richards, Department of Labor and Industry
[EXHIBIT\(bus33a03\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:17:05 Sen. Gillespie
09:17:34 Ms. Wolter, University of Montana
09:18:39 Sen. Gillespie
09:18:59 Ms. Wolter

Closing by Sponsor:

09:20:07 Rep. Funk

HEARING ON SB 235

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:21:29 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 48, opened the hearing on SB 235, Generally revise homeowners' insurance laws relating to rates.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

09:27:04 Bob Biskupiak, Deputy Insurance Commissioner, Office of Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)
09:30:14 Bruce Spencer, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC)
09:32:30 Aimee Grmoljez, American Property Casualty Insurance Association

09:33:12 Sen. Gauthier entered the meeting.

09:34:47 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company
09:37:05 John Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Montana

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:37:31 Sen. Gillespie
09:37:53 Mr. Spencer, NAMIC
09:39:42 Sen. Gillespie
09:39:50 Mr. Spencer
09:40:00 Mr. Biskupiak, CSI
09:40:35 Sen. Boland
09:40:41 Sen. Gauthier
09:41:19 Mr. Spencer
09:41:57 Sen. Pope
09:43:02 Mr. Biskupiak
09:44:20 Sen. Pope
09:44:48 Mr. Biskupiak

Closing by Sponsor:

09:46:04 Sen. Morigeau

HEARING ON SB 207

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:53:58 Sen. JP Pommichowski (D), SD 33, opened the hearing on SB 207, Revise alcohol laws pertaining to hours for retail sales.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:59:05 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(bus33a04\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

10:00:33 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)
10:01:04 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association (MPMCSA)
10:02:09 EJ Redding, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association

Informational Testimony:

10:02:42 Beck Schlauch, Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:03:10 Sen. Pope
10:03:33 Mr. Iverson, MTA
10:04:43 Sen. Pope
10:05:08 Mr. Longcake, MPMCSA
10:06:19 Sen. Pope
10:06:49 Mr. Longcake
10:07:22 Sen. Pope
10:08:00 Mr. Longcake
10:08:12 Sen. Sweeney

10:08:53 Sen. Pomnichowski

Closing by Sponsor:

10:11:13 Sen. Pomnichowski

HEARING ON SB 190

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:13:24 Sen. Terry Gauthier (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 190, Establish valid tip pool agreements.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:15:53 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA)

10:18:50 Tom Kuntz, MRA

10:22:19 Sen. Smith entered the meeting.

10:22:26 Roth Jordan, citizen

10:25:14 Bob Powell, The Montana Club restaurant

10:27:49 Adam Belarde, Montana Restaurant Board

10:31:41 Blaine Woodfin, MRA

10:34:23 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association

10:35:09 Jessie Luther, Montana Hospitality and Development Association

10:37:31 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association

10:37:51 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(bus33a05\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

10:38:36 Quinlan O'Connor, Department of Labor and Industry

[EXHIBIT\(bus33a06\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:39:02 Sen. Boland

10:40:28 Mr. Woodfin, MRA

10:41:07 Sen. Boland

10:42:19 Mr. Woodfin

10:43:24 Sen. Pope

10:44:27 Mr. Griffin, MRA

10:45:16 Sen. Pope

10:45:48 Mr. Griffin

10:46:48 Sen. Boland

10:48:00 Mr. Kuntz, MRA

10:48:30 Sen. Boland

10:48:48 Mr. Kuntz

10:49:35 Sen. Sweeney

10:50:32 Mr. Kuntz

10:51:53 Sen. Sweeney
10:52:23 Mr. Kuntz
10:53:57 Sen. Small
10:54:37 Mr. Kuntz
10:55:46 Chair Fitzpatrick

EXHIBIT(bus33a07)

Closing by Sponsor:

10:55:55 Sen. Gauthier

10:57:58 Chair Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:58 A.M.

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus33aad.pdf](#))