

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on February 19, 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: SB 216, 2/16/2021; SB 217, 2/16/2021; SB 239, 2/16/2021; SB 251, 2/16/2021

HEARING ON SB 239

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:00:51 Sen. Mary McNally (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on SB 239, Uniform Directed Trust Act.

09:01:21 Sen. Sweeney entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:02:57 Ed Eck, Uniform Law Commission

09:08:24 David Dietrich, attorney

09:15:34 Molly Considine, attorney

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:23:17 Sen. Gillespie

09:23:50 Mr. Dietrich, attorney

09:25:28 Chair Fitzpatrick

09:25:51 Mr. Dietrich

09:26:21 Chair Fitzpatrick

Closing by Sponsor:

09:26:39 Sen. McNally

HEARING ON SB 216

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:27:37 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 216, Revise laws relating to insurance parity compliance reporting.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:30:00 Jon Metropoulos, Montana Psychiatric Association (MTPA)

09:32:29 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association

09:34:31 Tim Clement, American Psychiatric Association

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a01\)](#)

09:37:23 Leonard Lantz, Montana Psychiatric Association

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a02\)](#)

09:38:41 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association

09:39:30 Cora Neumann, psychiatrist

Opponents' Testimony:

09:41:07 John Doran, Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a03\)](#)

09:43:03 Jennifer Hensley, PacificSource Health Plans

09:43:57 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers
09:44:55 Bruce Knudsen, Montana Auto Dealers Association

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a04\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:46:29 Chair Fitzpatrick
09:46:37 Mr. Metropoulos, MTPA
09:47:05 Sen. Pope

Closing by Sponsor:

09:47:40 Sen. Small

HEARING ON SB 217

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:48:22 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 217, Revise laws relating to psychiatric collaborative care.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:51:21 Aimee Grmoljez, Billings Clinic

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a05\)](#)

09:52:57 Jon Metropoulos, Montana Psychiatric Association

09:53:31 Sen. Gauthier entered the meeting.

09:54:06 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association

09:56:21 John Doran, Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana (BCBSMT)

09:58:13 Jennifer Hensley, PacificSource Health Plans

09:59:21 Tim Clement, American Psychiatric Association

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a06\)](#)

10:00:30 Leonard Lantz, Montana Psychiatric Association (MPA)

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a07\)](#)

10:01:51 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a08\)](#)

10:03:04 Cora Neumann, We Are Montana

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a09\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

10:04:27 Sarah Baxter, Montana Psychological Association

[EXHIBIT\(bus35a10\)](#)

10:06:50 Jennifer Robohm, doctor

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:10:00 Sen. Gillespie
10:10:34 Mr. Doran, BCBSMT
10:11:09 Sen. Pope
10:12:13 Mr. Lantz, MPA

Closing by Sponsor:

10:13:10 Sen. Small

HEARING ON SB 251

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:14:37 Sen. Cary Smith (R), SD 27, opened the hearing on SB 251, Generally revise civil liability laws relating to damages.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:17:02 Lieutenant Governor Kristin Juras
10:20:30 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

EXHIBIT(bus35a11)

10:24:04 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association
10:25:04 Edward Vozzo, Mountain Health Co-op
10:26:00 Aimee Grmoljez, American Property Casualty Insurance Association

EXHIBIT(bus35a12)

10:28:39 Ron Fulkerson, Yellowstone Insurance Exchange, RRG

EXHIBIT(bus35a13)

10:32:23 Jordan Crosby, Montana Defense Trial Lawyers

EXHIBIT(bus35a14)

10:35:39 Mark Crawshaw, Montana Hospitality Association (MHA)

EXHIBIT(bus35a15)

Opponents' Testimony:

10:37:20 Anders Blewett, attorney
10:50:13 Justin Stalpes, attorney
11:04:30 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

11:11:02 Sen. Boland
11:11:55 Mr. Blewett, attorney
11:13:02 Sen. Boland
11:15:08 Mr. Blewett
11:15:52 Sen. Boland
11:16:51 Mr. Stalpes, attorney

11:19:47 Sen. Pope
11:21:04 Mr. Crawshaw, MHA
11:21:25 Sen. Pope
11:22:36 Mr. Crawshaw
11:23:24 Sen. Pope

Closing by Sponsor:

11:26:43 Sen. Smith

11:33:30 Chair Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:34 A.M.

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus35aad.pdf](#))