

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Sen. Chris Friedel, on February 22, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Terry Gauthier, Chair (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. John Esp, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Carlie Boland (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
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 221, 2/12/2021; SB 286, 2/19/2021; SB 294, 2/19/2021

Executive Action: SB 286, SB 221, SB 294

HEARING ON SB 286

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:02:55 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB286, Prohibit certain prescriptive easements in a platted subdivision.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:04:51 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM); also speaking for the Montana Building Industry Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:07:17 Sen. Esp
15:07:30 Sen. Hinebauch
15:08:50 Sen. Esp
15:09:04 Mr. Denowh, UPOM
15:09:49 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:10:15 Mr. Denowh
15:10:25 Sen. Pope
15:11:37 Mr. Denowh

Closing by Sponsor:

15:12:23 Sen. Hinebauch

HEARING ON SB 294

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:12:48 Sen. John Esp (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB294, Allow for a referendum to terminate a county zoning district.

[EXHIBIT\(los37a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:17:11 Jeff Wagner, Park County

15:21:15 Ann Hallowell, Park County

[EXHIBIT\(los37a02\)](#)

15:24:28 Edwin Johnson, Montana Council

15:29:27 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony:

15:32:08 Robert Horne, Whitefish

[EXHIBIT\(los37a03\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los37a04\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:34:43 Sen. Pope
15:36:02 Mr. Horne, citizen
15:37:26 Sen. Pope
15:38:13 Mr. Horne
15:39:07 Sen. Pope

15:39:14 Sen. Gauthier entered the meeting.

15:39:35 Mr. Horne

Closing by Sponsor:

15:41:02 Sen. Esp

HEARING ON SB 221

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:43:36 Sen. Terry Gauthier (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB221, Provide process to dissolve a rural special improvement district.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:45:28 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
15:46:46 Nicho Hash, Lewis and Clark County

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:48:56 Sen. Esp
15:49:15 Mr. Bryson, MACo
15:50:18 Sen. Esp
15:50:29 Mr. Bryson
15:50:39 Chair Friedel
15:50:55 Mr. Bryson
15:51:30 Mr. Hash, citizen

Closing by Sponsor:

15:52:17 Sen. Gauthier

15:53:33 Sen. Gauthier assumed the position of chair

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 286

15:54:55 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 286 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:55:14 Chair Gauthier

15:55:31 Sen. Boland
15:56:13 Chair Gauthier
15:56:19 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:56:51 Sen. Pope

15:56:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Ellsworth voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 294

15:57:26 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 294 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:58:02 Sen. Pope
15:59:00 Sen. Esp
16:00:15 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division
16:00:39 Sen. Pope

16:01:03 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Morigeau and Sen. Pope voting no. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Ellsworth voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 221

16:01:53 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 221 DO PASS.** Motion carried 8-0 by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Ellsworth were excused.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:32PM

Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los37aad.pdf](#))