

MINUTES

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

Call to Order: Chair Douglas (Doug) Kary, on February 24, 2021 at 2:40 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. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)

Members Present by Zoom video Conference:

Sen. Janet Ellis (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Branch
Alex Colafrenscesco, 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 228, 2/19/2021; SB 272, 2/19/2021; SB 276, 2/19/2021; SB 299, 2/19/2021; SB 310, 2/19/2021

Executive Action: SB 226 Do Pass; SB 224 Do Pass as Amended; SB 202 Be Tabled, SB 229 Be Tabled

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 224

14:40:07 Chair Kary
14:40:19 Sen. Vance
14:40:37 Chair Kary

14:40:52 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 224 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

14:40:59 Chair Kary

14:41:28 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 224 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(sts39a01)

Discussion:

14:41:43 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

14:44:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 5-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting no.

14:45:19 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 224 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(sts39a02)

Discussion:

14:45:39 Sen. Ellis
14:46:29 Ms. Aldrich, LSD
14:48:25 Sen. Ellis

14:50:16 **Vote:** Motion failed 3-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting aye.

14:50:53 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 224 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

14:51:11 Sen. Bennett
14:52:22 Chair Kary
14:52:28 Sen. Bennett

14:53:21 **Vote:** Motion carried 5-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 226

14:53:50 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 226 DO PASS.**

14:53:54 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 226 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(sts39a03)

Discussion:

14:54:10 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

14:55:18 Chair Kary

14:55:26 Sen. Ellis

14:56:18 Sen. Bennett left the meeting.

14:57:04 **Vote:** Motion failed 3-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting aye. Sen. Bennett voted by proxy.

14:57:39 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 226 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

14:57:54 Sen. Ellis

14:58:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 5-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting no. Sen. Bennett voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 232

14:59:23 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 232 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

14:59:44 Sen. Osmundson

15:00:15 Chair Kary

15:00:24 Sen. Osmundson

15:00:39 Chair Kary

15:00:46 Sen. Osmundson

15:00:50 Without objection, Sen. Vance withdrew the DO PASS motion.

15:01:04 Sen. Ellis

15:01:30 Chair Kary

HEARING ON SB 299

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:02:31 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB299, Revise primary election laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:07:28 Jeff Laszloffy, citizen

15:09:33 Donna Elford, Helena

15:10:11 Lori Robinson, citizen

15:10:37 Elizabeth James, citizen

15:10:56 Paul McElroy, citizen

15:11:29 Carolyn Truscott, citizen

Opponents' Testimony:

15:12:46 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk and Records Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:15:18 Sen. Cuffe
15:15:36 Sen. Ellis
15:16:31 Sen. Regier
15:17:03 Chair Kary
15:17:22 Sen. Vance

Additional Opponents' Testimony:

15:17:31 Rachel Schmidt, Associated Students of Montana State University
15:18:20 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group

Continued Questions from Committee Members:

15:19:38 Sen. Cuffe
15:20:07 Sen. Regier
15:20:42 Sen. Cuffe
15:20:47 Dana Corson, Montana Secretary of State's Office (SOS)
15:20:57 Sen Cuffe
15:21:08 Mr. Corson, SOS
15:21:50 Sen. Cuffe
15:22:22 Mr. Corson
15:23:50 Chair Kary
15:24:04 Mr. Corson
15:24:31 Chair Kary
15:24:53 Sen. Osmundson
15:25:26 Sen. Vance
15:25:52 Chair Kary
15:25:58 Sen. Regier
15:26:14 Sen. Vance
15:26:19 Sen. Regier
15:26:23 Chair Kary

Closing by Sponsor:

15:26:45 Sen. Regier

HEARING ON SB 310**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:28:23 Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R), SD 15, opened the hearing on SB310, Establish personal staff positions for appointed department directors.

15:29:05 Sen. Bennett entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:30:13 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
[EXHIBIT\(sts39a04\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:32:51 Larry Nielsen, Montana Federation of Public Employees

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:34:24 Sen. Bennett
15:35:04 Sen. Osmundson
15:37:23 Sen. Vance
15:38:29 Sen. Osmundson
15:39:20 Sen. Vance
15:39:28 Sen. Bennett
15:39:47 Sen. Osmundson
15:40:08 Sen. Ellis
15:41:01 Sen. Osmundson

Closing by Sponsor:

15:42:06 Sen. Osmundson

HEARING ON SB 272**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:42:39 Sen. Gordon Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB272, Generally revise Montana Information Technology Act.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:44:47 Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Department of Justice (DOJ)
15:52:54 Kellee English, Montana Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:54:39 Matt Van Syckle, Department of Administration (DOA)

Informational Testimony: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:58:30 Sen. Osmundson
15:58:59 Mr. Knudsen, DOJ
15:59:54 Dawn Temple, DOJ
16:00:03 Sen. Osmundson
16:00:28 Ms. Temple
16:01:12 Sen. Osmundson
16:02:30 Michael Harris, DOJ
16:02:48 Sen. Osmundson
16:02:57 Mr. Harris
16:04:00 Sen. Osmundson
16:06:22 Mr. Van Syckle, DOA
16:06:31 Sen. Osmundson
16:06:46 Mr. Harris
16:07:16 Chair Kary
16:07:22 Mr. Van Syckle
16:07:56 Sen. Osmundson
16:10:09 Mr. Van Syckle
16:10:32 Sen. Osmundson
16:11:07 Mr. Harris
16:11:19 Sky Schaefer, Motor Vehicle Division, DOJ

16:13:36 Sen. Osmundson
 16:13:56 Mr. Van Syckle
 16:16:12 Sen. Osmundson
 16:16:33 Mr. Knudsen
 16:18:40 Sen. Osmundson
 16:19:12 Mr. Van Syckle
 16:21:07 Sen. Osmundson
 16:21:42 Mr. Van Syckle
 16:21:53 Don Harris, DOA
 16:22:36 Sen. Osmundson
 16:23:17 Mr. Don Harris
 16:24:14 Sen. Osmundson
 16:24:24 Sen. Ellis
 16:27:46 Mr. Van Syckle
 16:29:13 Sen. Cuffe
 16:30:11 Mr. Knudsen
 16:30:59 Chair Kary
 16:31:15 Mr. Van Syckle

Closing by Sponsor:

16:31:38 Sen. Vance

Sen. Sales left the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 228

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:34:04 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB228, Generally revise public employee union laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

16:35:40 Robin Haux, Montana Nurses Association (MNA)
 16:36:18 Sen. Osmundson left the meeting.
 16:37:19 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
 16:42:04 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
 16:44:12 Tim Twardoski, executive director, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
 16:45:59 Ole Hedstrom, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters
 16:47:19 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council
 16:47:53 John Johnson, Operating Engineers
 16:48:19 Kim Rickard-Smeltzer, business manager, Laborers Local 1686
 16:49:34 Joel Worth, Carpenters Union
 16:50:22 Jessica Wicks Teamsters Local 2
 16:51:34 Luke Hoffer, IBEW 233
 16:51:59 Eric Anderson, Teamsters Local 190; Montana Nurses Association

16:52:43 Derek Hitt, Montana Carpenters Local 82

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:53:48 Sen. Bennet
16:56:54 Ms. Curtis, MFPE
16:57:03 Sen. Bennett
16:57:08 Chair Kary
16:59:58 Ms. Curtis
17:00:09 Sen. Bennett
17:01:30 Sen. Hertz

Closing by Sponsor:

17:02:17 Sen. Hertz

HEARING ON SB 276

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

17:03:41 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB276, Eliminate secretary of state's microfilm requirements.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:05:57 Angie McLaughlin, policy advisor, Montana Secretary of State's Office (SOS)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:07:16 Sen. Bennett
17:08:16 Ms. McLaughlin, SOS
17:08:27 Sen. Bennett
17:08:37 Chair Kary
17:08:53 Ms. McLaughlin

Closing by Sponsor:

17:09:15 Sen. Cuffe

17:09:30 Chair Kary

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 229

17:10:18 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 229 DO PASS.**

17:10:37 **Motion:** Sen. Ellis moved that **SB 229 BE AMENDED.**

[EXHIBIT\(sts39a05\)](#)

Discussion:

17:11:20 Sen. Vance
17:11:25 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

17:14:04 Chair Kary
17:14:11 Sen. Ellis
17:17:24 Chair Kary
17:17:35 Sen. Ellis
17:19:23 Ms. Aldrich, LSD
17:19:50 Sen. Ellis
17:20:22 Ms. Aldrich

17:21:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Osmundson and Sen. Sales voted by proxy.

17:21:44 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 299 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:21:56 Sen. Bennett
17:22:14 Ms. Aldrich

17:22:34 **Vote:** Motion failed 3-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting aye. Sen. Osmundson and Sen. Sales voted by proxy.

17:23:08 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 229 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 5-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting no. Sen. Osmundson and Sen. Sales voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 202

17:24:03 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **SB 202 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Sen. Osmundson voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:25 PM

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sts39aad.pdf](#))