

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Vice Chair Esp, on March 10, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. John Esp, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Terry Gauthier, Chair (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Izmerai Alvarado, Committee Secretary
Toni Henneman, Legislative Branch
Alex Colafrancesco, 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: HB 49, 2/27/2021; HB 255, 2/27/2021; HB 268, 2/27/2021

HEARING ON HB 255**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:02:15 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB255, Revising time period to protest sewer and/or water district assessments.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:11:34 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

15:12:36 Dennis Iverson, Billings Association of Realtors

15:13:43 President Blasdel entered the meeting.

15:14:44 Dema (DeDe) Rhodes, Basin

15:20:17 Chris Kukulski, City of Billings

[EXHIBIT\(los48a01\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:22:44 Jack Fallon, Evergreen Water Sewer District

[EXHIBIT\(los48a02\)](#)

15:28:06 Steve Wade, Montana Rural Water Systems

[EXHIBIT\(los48a03\)](#)

15:32:08 Peyton Brookshire, County Water District of Billings Heights

15:39:42 Rock Rayl, Homestead Acres County Water and Sewer District

15:43:21 Nathan Bilyeu, citizen

15:46:27 Julie Spencer, Big Fork Water and Sewer District (BFWSD)

15:51:15 John Camden, Montana Rural Water Systems

15:53:26 Chuck Smith, Arlee Water and Sewer District

15:55:41 Dan Semmens, Missoula

[EXHIBIT\(los48a04\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los48a05\)](#)

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

16:01:22 Sen Pope

16:02:16 Ms. Spencer, BFWSD

16:02:46 Sen Pope

16:03:47 Ms. Spencer

16:03:59 Sen. Pope

16:05:25 Mr. Bilyeu, citizen

16:06:32 Sen. Pope

16:06:50 Mr. Bilyeu

16:08:09 Sen. Esp

16:08:33 Rep. Brewster

16:08:51 Sen. Esp

Closing by Sponsor:

16:09:14 Rep. Brewster

HEARING ON HB 49

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:15:45 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB49, Revise recording fees to support county and state land information accounts.

16:17:34 Chair Esp left the meeting. Sen. Friedel took over the duties of the chair.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:19:33 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association, also speaking for Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association

16:20:42 Shane Scanlon, Weyerhaeuser

[EXHIBIT\(los48a06\)](#)

16:21:36 Jennie Stapp, Montana State Library

16:22:17 Sen. Esp returned to the meeting.

16:28:50 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

[EXHIBIT\(los48a07\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(los48a08\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:30:53 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

16:31:16 Evan Hammer, digital library administrator, Montana State Library

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

16:31:43 Rep. Bedey

HEARING ON HB 268

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:34:01 Rep. Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB268, Revise laws related to maintenance district assessments.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:36:50 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:39:18 Dennis Zander, Dawson County

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:40:57 Sen Esp

16:41:16 Mr. Rittal, MACo

Closing by Sponsor:

16:42:05 Rep. Phalen

16:42:35 Sen. Gauthier

16:42:55 Sen. Esp

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:43 PM

Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

ia

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los48aad.pdf](#))