

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: Chair Ryan Osmundson, on March 11, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 317 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Ryan Osmundson, Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. David Howard (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Carl Glimm (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Katherine Anderson, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Kris Wilkinson, 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 297, 3/8/2021; SB 335, 3/8/2021; SB 370, 3/8/2021

09:00:25 Chair Osmundson
09:01:36 Recess
09:02:09 Sen. Ellis joined the meeting.
09:02:32 Reconvened

HEARING ON SB 297

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:02:39 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB297, ConnectMT Act to establish broadband deployment.
09:03:00 Sen. Lang joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:04:52 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)
09:06:42 Jon Sonju, Big Sky EDA, Billings
09:07:10 Shane Scanlon, Charter, AT&T, Verizon

Additional Testimony Received:

[**EXHIBIT\(fcs49a01\)**](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:08:06 Sen. Salomon
09:08:24 Chair Osmundson
09:08:40 Sen. Ellsworth
09:09:21 Sen. Ellis
09:10:15 Sen. Ellsworth
09:16:16 Sen. Ellis
09:17:09 Sen. Ellsworth
09:18:26 Sen. Lynch
09:19:09 Sen. Ellsworth
09:20:23 Sen. Lynch
09:26:17 Sen. Lynch
09:26:18 Sen. Ellsworth
09:26:24 Sen. Keenan
09:26:42 Sen. Ellsworth
09:26:45 Sen. Keenan
09:27:28 Mr. Feiss, MTA
09:29:35 Sen. Keenan
09:30:01 Mr. Feiss

Closing by Sponsor:

09:30:51 Sen. Ellsworth

09:31:39 Sen. Smith joined the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 335

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:32:34 Sen. Gordon Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB335, Prohibiting certain funding to be used for state or local elections.

09:32:56 Chair Osmundson

Proponents' Testimony:

[EXHIBIT\(fcs49a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

09:33:19 Jaime MacNaughton, Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:33:53 Sen. Ellis

09:34:35 Chair Osmundson

09:34:42 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division

09:34:50 Chair Osmundson

Closing by Sponsor:

09:35:15 Sen. Vance

HEARING ON SB 370

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:35:53 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB370, Protecting constitutional rights during an emergency.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

[EXHIBIT\(fcs49a03\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:36:37 Sen. Ellis

09:37:19 Chair Osmundson

09:38:23 Sen. Ellis

09:38:29 Chair Osmundson

09:38:32 Sen. Lynch

09:38:41 Chair Osmundson

Closing by Sponsor:

09:39:10 Sen. Ellsworth

09:40:06 Chair Osmundson

09:40:35 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division

09:30:42 Sen. Keenan

09:40:48 Chair Osmundson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:41 A.M.

Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fcs49aad.pdf](#))