

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Terry Gauthier, on March 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)  
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Terry Gauthier, Chair (R)  
Sen. John Esp, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (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: HB 259, 2/27/2021; HB 292, 2/27/2021; HB 304, 2/27/2021

Executive Action: HB 49, HB 220, HB 268

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 49**

15:02:20 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 49 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Pope were excused. Sen. Boldman will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 220**

15:03:13 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 220 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Pope were excused. Sen. Esp will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 268**

15:03:49 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 268 BE CONCURRED IN**.

**Discussion:**

15:04:01 Sen. Boldman

15:04:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Pope were excused. Sen. Esp will carry the bill.

15:04:29 Sen. Boldman left the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 292**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:05:46 Rep. Geraldine Custer (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB292, Revise local subdivision review regarding title insurance procedure.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:07:46 William Gowen, Montana Land Title Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:09:39 Rep. Custer

**HEARING ON HB 304**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:10:24 Rep. Frank Garner (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB304, Revise definition of community land trust.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:12:27 Hermina Harold, Trust Montana  
 15:14:39 Mike Nugent, Montana Association of Realtors  
 15:15:56 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:16:43 Sen. Boland  
 15:17:11 Rep. Garner

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:17:30 Rep. Garner

**HEARING ON HB 259**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:18:16 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB259, Revise property and zoning laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:21:40 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association  
[\*\*EXHIBIT\(los50a01\)\*\*](#)

15:25:24 Jessie Walthers, Flathead Building Association  
[\*\*EXHIBIT\(los50a02\)\*\*](#)

15:29:39 Linda Revenaugh, Southwest Montana Building Industry Association  
 15:32:39 Adam Hertz, Missoula  
 15:36:07 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors  
 15:38:20 Patrick Webb, Americans For Prosperity Montana  
 15:38:44 Tom Murphy, chairman, Montana Building Industry Association Government Affairs committee  
[\*\*EXHIBIT\(los50a03\)\*\*](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:40:51 John McDonald, City of Bozeman  
 15:44:32 SK Rossi, Missoula and Bozeman  
 15:47:08 Greg Dorrington, City of Billings  
 15:49:23 Allison Reinhardt, Montana Associated Students  
 15:50:13 Jack Rinck, Associated Students of the University of Montana  
 15:51:44 John Muhlfeld, mayor, City of Whitefish  
 15:55:45 Alanna Wulf, Big Sky 55+  
 15:57:42 Terry Cunningham, Bozeman City Commission  
 16:01:06 Karin Hilding, Whitefish  
 16:04:35 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns; also speaking on behalf of the Montana Association of Counties  
 16:07:36 Kevin Gartland, Whitefish Chamber of Commerce

16:10:16 Robert Horne, Whitefish  
16:14:16 Mayre Flowers, Montana Smart Growth Coalition  
16:17:59 Jennifer James, American Institute of Architects, Montana Chapter  
16:18:59 Rebecca Norton, Whitefish

**EXHIBIT(los50a04)**

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**EXHIBIT(los50a05)**

**Informational Testimony:**

16:22:23 Cheryl Cohen, Department of Commerce (DOC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:23:08 Sen. Pope  
16:24:08 Mr. Muhlfeld, Whitefish  
16:25:29 Sen. Pope  
16:25:53 Mr. Muhlfeld  
16:26:34 Sen. Morigeau  
16:27:21 Mr. McDonald, Bozeman  
16:29:35 Sen. Pope  
16:30:26 Ms. Cohen  
16:32:33 Sen. Pope  
16:33:31 Mr. Cunningham, Bozeman  
16:35:07 Sen. Pope  
16:35:45 Mr. Cunningham  
16:36:40 Sen. Pope

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:36:58 Rep. Vinton

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:40PM

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Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los50aad.pdf](#))**