

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

**Call to Order:** Chair David Howard, on March 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. David Howard, Chair (R)  
Sen. Carl Glimm, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Jen Gross, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Diane Sands (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Bob Keenan (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Corina Hach, Legislative Branch  
Gwyn Schooler, Committee Secretary  
Hallie Swain, 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 341, 3/11/2021; HB 280, 3/11/2021; HB 231, 3/11/2021; HB 291, 3/11/2021

Executive Action: HB 57, HB 276, HB 280, HB 341

**HEARING ON HB 291**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:16:56 Rep. Moffie Funk (D), HD 82, opened the hearing on HB291, Requiring coverage of amplification devices, services for kids with hearing loss.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:19:00 Nicole Thuotte, Helena

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a01\)](#)**

15:21:42 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Speech-Language-Hearing Association

15:22:47 Jean Branscum, CEO, Montana Medical Association

15:23:57 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association

15:24:39 Bruce Spencer, Mountain Health Co-Op

15:26:05 Hillary Carter, Comprehensive Hearing Services

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a02\)](#)**

15:29:21 Autumn Dunning, Billings

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a03\)](#)**

15:30:50 Kiera Kirschner, Bozeman

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a04\)](#)**

15:32:50 Georg Kirschner, Bozeman

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a05\)](#)**

15:35:13 Katie Opp, president, Montana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

15:36:29 Pamela Shrauger, citizen

15:37:42 Caden Shrauger, citizen

15:38:52 Dr. Marian Kummer, Montana Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a06\)](#)**

15:41:00 Moriah Cochran, Stevensville

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a07\)](#)**

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a08\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:43:56 Kali Wicks, Blue Cross Blue Shield Montana (BCBSMT)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:44:36 Sen. McGillvray

15:44:51 Ms. Wicks, BCBSMT

15:46:08 Sen. Hinebauch

15:46:32 Ms. Wicks

15:47:17 Sen. McGillvray

15:47:56 Ms. Wicks  
15:48:28 Sen. McGillvray  
15:48:36 Ms. Wicks  
  
15:49:04 Sen. Glimm entered the meeting.  
  
15:49:13 Sen. McGillvray  
15:49:52 Ms. Wicks  
15:51:35 Sen. Gross  
15:51:57 Ms. Wicks

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:52:15 Rep. Funk

**HEARING ON HB 280**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:54:25 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB280, Repeal authorization for senior citizen legislature.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:56:08 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras (GOV)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:57:10 Sen. Glimm  
15:57:25 Rep. M. Regier  
15:57:47 Sen. Sands  
15:58:55 Ms. Juras, GOV  
15:59:04 Sen. Sands

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:59:27 Rep. M. Regier

**HEARING ON HB 231**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:59:37 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB231, Revise laws relating to certificate of need.

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a09\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:01:49 Kendall Cotton, president/CEO, Frontier Institute  
16:04:11 Margaret Morgan, St. John's United

**[EXHIBIT\(phs53a10\)](#)**

16:07:28 Patrick Webb, Americans for Prosperity

16:09:09 Matthew Mitchell, economist and senior research fellow, Mercatus Center,  
George Mason University

[EXHIBIT\(phs53a11\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:12:53 Rose Hughes, executive director, Montana Health Care Association

[EXHIBIT\(phs53a12\)](#)

16:24:31 Dianne Hansen, CEO, Partners in Home Care Inc.

[EXHIBIT\(phs53a13\)](#)

16:27:07 Sen. Molnar entered the meeting.

16:31:03 Brad Garpestad, Benefit Spectrum Medical

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:33:35 Sen. McGillvray

16:34:09 Ms. Morgan

16:35:27 Sen. McGillvray

16:35:43 Ms. Morgan

16:37:36 Sen. McGillvray

16:38:08 Ms. Morgan

16:39:09 Chair Howard

16:40:10 Rep. M. Regier

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:40:38 Rep. M. Regier

**HEARING ON HB 341**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:40:58 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB341, Require that  
medicaid appropriations be used only for medicaid expenditures.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:43:15 Rose Hughes, executive director, Montana Health Care Association

16:44:09 Adrienne Cotton, director, Montana Area Agencies on Aging Association

16:45:00 Beth Brenneman, Disability Rights Montana (DRM)

16:46:04 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Montana  
Academy of Physician Assistants

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:46:58 Sen. Sands

16:47:46 Ms. Brenneman, DRM

16:48:18 Sen. Sands

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:48:29 Rep. M. Regier

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 57**

**Discussion:**

16:49:07 Chair Howard  
16:49:17 Sen. Sands  
16:49:23 Chair Howard  
16:49:37 Sen. Gross  
16:50:03 Chair Howard  
16:50:24 Sen. Sands  
16:50:46 Chair Howard  
16:51:15 Cori Hach, Legislative Services Division  
16:51:25 Chair Howard  
16:51:30 Sen. Sands

16:53:07 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Glimm moved that **HB 57 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Keenan voted by proxy. Sen. Sands will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 280**

16:53:55 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Glimm moved that **HB 280 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 8-1 by voice vote with Sen. Gross voting no. Sen. Keenan voted by proxy. Sen. Howard will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 341**

16:55:05 **Motion:** Sen. Glimm moved that **HB 341 BE CONCURRED IN**.

**Discussion:**

16:55:24 Sen. Molnar  
16:55:41 Sen. Glimm  
16:56:32 Sen. Sands  
16:57:24 Sen. Hinebauch  
16:57:45 Sen. Glimm  
16:58:20 Sen. Sands  
16:58:31 Sen. Glimm  
16:58:46 Sen. Howard  
16:58:56 Sen. Glimm  
16:59:15 Sen. Sands  
16:59:40 Sen. Molnar  
16:59:53 Sen. Glimm  
17:00:24 Sen. Hinebauch  
17:00:44 Sen. Glimm  
17:01:10 Sen. McNally

17:01:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Keenan voted by proxy. Sen. Glimm will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 276**

17:02:35 **Motion:** Sen. McGillvray moved that **HB 276 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:02:43 **Motion:** Sen. McGillvray moved that **HB 276 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT(phs53a14)**

**Discussion:**

17:02:56 Sen. McGillvray

17:03:21 Sen. Glimm left the meeting.

17:03:38 Sen. Gross

17:04:29 Sen. Molnar

17:04:46 Sen. McGillvray

17:05:10 Sen. Howard

17:05:31 Sen. McNally

17:05:50 Sen. McGillvray

17:06:42 Sen. Gross

17:07:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-1 by roll call vote with Sen. McNally voting no. Sen. Glimm and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

17:07:59 **Motion:** Sen. McGillvray moved that **HB 276 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:08:09 Sen. Gross

17:09:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Glimm and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy. Sen. Gross will carry the bill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:10 PM

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Gwyn Schooler, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([phs53aad.pdf](#))