

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on March 19, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, Chair (R)
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Carlie Boland, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary
Clara Bentler, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Erin Sullivan, 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: HB 121, 3/15/2021; HB 435, 3/15/2021; HB 440, 3/15/2021; HB 510, 3/15/2021; SR 92, 3/15/2021

09:02:41 Sen. Vance assumed the duties of the chair.

HEARING ON SR 92

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:02:43 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SR 92, Confirm Governor's appointee to the State Electrical Board.

EXHIBIT(bus55a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:03:29 Liane Taylor, Governor's Office (GOV)

09:04:34 Derrick Hedalen, appointee

09:06:03 Margaret Morgan, Montana Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)

Opponents' Testimony:

09:07:35 Luke Hoffer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 233 (IBEW)

09:08:32 Keith Allen, citizen

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:11:28 Sen. Pope
09:11:55 Chair Fitzpatrick
09:12:06 Sen. Pope
09:12:13 Ms. Taylor, GOV
09:12:55 Sen. Sweeney
09:13:17 Ms. Taylor
09:13:35 Sen. Sweeney
09:14:43 Mr. Hedalen, appointee
09:14:52 Sen. Sweeney
09:15:03 Mr. Hedalen
09:15:42 Sen. Sweeney
09:15:54 Mr. Hedalen
09:16:54 Sen. Boland
09:17:34 Ms. Taylor
09:17:49 Sen. Pope
09:18:20 Ms. Morgan, IEC
09:19:44 Sen. Pope
09:20:09 Ms. Morgan
09:20:38 Sen. Pope
09:21:09 Ms. Morgan
09:22:48 Sen. Boland
09:23:52 Mr. Hoffer, IBEW
09:24:08 Sen. Boland
09:25:03 Mr. Allen, citizen
09:26:05 Sen. Sweeney
09:26:28 Mr. Allen
09:26:57 Sen. Sweeney
09:27:32 Mr. Allen
09:28:35 Sen. Small

09:28:44 Ms. Morgan
09:30:02 Sen. Gauthier
09:30:44 Mr. Hedalen
09:32:44 Sen. Pope
09:33:18 Ms. Taylor

Closing by Sponsor:

09:33:41 Sen. Fitzpatrick

09:33:53 Sen. Fitzpatrick assumed the duties of the chair.

HEARING ON HB 121

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:34:00 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 121, Require elected official approval of local health board and officer actions.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:39:01 Darin Gaub, citizen
09:40:35 Jackson Duprey, citizen
09:42:32 Cindy Roscoe, citizen
09:44:10 Carolyn Truscott, citizen
09:45:03 Susie Shimmin, citizen
09:47:14 Cheryl Tusken, citizen
09:49:21 Charlotte Snyder, citizen
09:50:21 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties
09:51:56 Greg Dorrington, Montana Medical Association
09:53:30 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity - Montana

EXHIBIT(bus55a02)

09:55:59 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
09:56:48 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association
09:57:09 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association
09:58:05 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns

EXHIBIT(bus55a03)

Opponents' Testimony:

09:59:05 Michael Biggins, citizen

09:59:44 Sen. Small left the meeting.

Additional Testimony Received:

EXHIBIT(bus55a04)

Informational Testimony:

10:01:31 Shannon Therriault, Association of Montana Public Health Officials

EXHIBIT(bus55a05)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:02:14 Sen. Boland

10:03:36 Sen. Gauthier
10:03:59 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:04:34 Rep. Bedey
10:05:11 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:05:24 Rep. Bedey
10:06:09 Sen. Gauthier
10:06:47 Rep. Bedey
10:07:07 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:07:19 Rep. Bedey
10:07:34 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:07:53 Rep. Bedey
10:09:24 Sen. Pope
10:09:52 Rep. Bedey
10:10:29 Sen. Pope
10:11:02 Rep. Bedey

Closing by Sponsor:

10:11:37 Rep. Bedey

HEARING ON HB 435

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:14:01 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 435, Generally revise civil liability laws for government.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:22:11 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties
10:23:47 Emily Dean, Montana School Boards Association

Opponents' Testimony:

10:25:08 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association
10:34:03 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

[EXHIBIT\(bus55a06\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(bus55a07\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:37:32 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:38:22 Ms. Curtis, MFPE
10:38:27 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:38:53 Ms. Curtis
10:39:19 Sen. Boland
10:40:12 Rep. Mercer
10:42:18 Sen. Boland
10:43:52 Rep. Mercer
10:45:06 Chair Fitzpatrick
10:45:34 Rep. Mercer

10:45:56 Sen. Boland

Closing by Sponsor:

10:46:37 Rep. Mercer

HEARING ON HB 440

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:53:03 Rep. Willis Curdy (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on HB440, Generally revise winery regulatory laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:54:14 Carl Andrew Sponseller, Ten Spoon Vineyard

10:55:52 Brandon Skarsten, Yellowstone Cellars

10:58:21 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

11:00:39 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

11:01:05 Sen. Gauthier

11:01:44 Mr. Skarsten, Yellowstone Cellars

11:02:58 Sen. Gauthier

11:03:37 Mr. Skarsten

11:03:45 Sen. Boland

11:04:21 Rep. Curdy

11:06:49 Sen. Pope

11:08:13 Rep. Curdy

11:08:30 Sen. Pope

11:08:45 Rep. Curdy

11:09:33 Sen. Gauthier

11:10:05 Mr. Swanson

11:10:52 Sen. Sweeney

11:11:32 Mr. Sponseller, Ten Spoon Vineyard

11:12:53 Sen. Sweeney

11:13:03 Mr. Sponseller

Closing by Sponsor:

11:13:42 Rep. Curdy

11:16:37 Recess

11:35:55 Reconvene

11:35:57 Chair Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:37 A.M.

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([bus55aad.pdf](#))