

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Douglas (Doug) Kary, on March 22, 2021 at 2:50 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary, Chair (R)  
Sen. Bryce Bennett, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Sen. Walt Sales (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Janet Ellis (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Branch  
Alex Colafrancesco, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Jacelyn Sterling, Committee Secretary

**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 322, 3/10/2021; HB 362, 3/10/2021; HB 406, 3/10/2021; HB 618, 3/10/2021

Executive Action: HB 31 Be Concurred In; HB 319 Be Tabled

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 31**

14:50:33 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 31 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:50:52 Chair Kary

14:51:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Fox will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 319**

14:51:46 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 319 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:52:25 Sen. Ellis

14:52:58 Chair Kary

14:53:10 Sen. Cuffe

14:53:32 Sen. Bennett

14:55:47 Sen. Sales

14:56:27 Sen. Bennett

14:57:39 Chair Kary

14:58:28 **Vote:** Motion failed 2-6 by roll call vote with Sen. Kary and Sen. Sales voting aye.

14:59:10 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Cuffe moved that **HB 319 BE TABLED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:00:52 Sen. Osmundson left the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 322**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:06:45 Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R), HD 52, opened the hearing on HB322, Constitutional amendment to raise legislator residency requirement.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:08:45 Sen. Cuffe

15:09:07 Rep. Patelis

15:09:27 Sen. Sales

15:10:11 Rep. Patelis

15:10:31 Sen. Ellis

15:11:50 Rep. Patelis

15:12:00 Sen. Bennett  
15:12:36 Rep. Patelis  
15:13:23 Sen. Bennett  
15:14:06 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
15:14:41 Sen. Bennett  
15:14:48 Rep. Patelis  
15:15:10 Sen. Bennett  
15:15:21 Sen. Sales  
15:16:04 Rep. Patelis  
15:17:52 Rep. Bennett  
15:18:23 Rep. Patelis  
15:19:11 Chair Kary  
15:19:27 Rep. Patelis  
15:19:40 Sen. Cuffe  
15:20:13 Chair Kary  
15:20:30 Sen. Cuffe  
15:20:42 Rep. Patelis  
15:20:59 Sen. Cuffe  
15:21:14 Chair Kary  
15:21:36 Sen. Cuffe  
15:21:42 Chair Kary  
15:22:09 Rep. Patelis  
15:22:50 Sen. Fox  
15:23:17 Rep. Patelis  
15:23:54 Chair Kary  
15:25:25 Rep. Patelis  
15:26:12 Ms. Aldrich, LSD  
15:27:48 Sen. Sales  
15:28:17 Rep. Patelis  
15:28:41 Chair Kary  
15:29:02 Sen. Ellis  
15:29:56 Ms. Aldrich  
15:31:54 Sen. Bennett  
15:32:25 Ms. Aldrich  
15:33:34 Sen. Bennett  
15:33:58 Ms. Aldrich  
15:34:35 Chair Kary

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:35:00 Rep. Patelis

**HEARING ON HB 362****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:36:10 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB362, Clarify credit for military leave during employment.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:38:13 Roger Hagan, Officer and Enlisted Association of the American Legion

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:40:20 Sen. Cuffe  
15:40:47 Mr. Hagan, American Legion  
15:41:28 Sen. Cuffe  
15:41:32 Mr. Hagan  
15:41:39 Sen. Cuffe  
15:41:55 Mr. Hagan

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:42:19 Rep. Fitzgerald

**HEARING ON HB 406**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:43:26 Rep. Mark Noland (R), HD 10, opened the hearing on HB406, Revise absentee and mail ballot laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:50:17 Becky Stockton, chief election judge  
15:52:40 Darin Gaub, executive director, Restore Liberty  
15:55:41 Dennison Rivera, Young Republicans  
15:59:27 Jacob Corcoran, Freedom Protection Project

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:01:39 Alanna Wulf, Big Sky 55+  
16:02:34 Lauren Caldwell, citizen  
16:03:41 Ella Smith, Montana Women Vote

**[EXHIBIT\(sts56a01\)](#)**

16:05:36 Sapphire Carter, Forward Montana

**[EXHIBIT\(sts56a02\)](#)**

16:07:52 Wyatt Clark, Conrad

**[EXHIBIT\(sts56a03\)](#)**

16:10:58 Margaret Bentwood, Montana League of Women Voters

**[EXHIBIT\(sts56a04\)](#)**

16:15:11 Emma Bode, citizen  
16:18:27 Joan Kresich, Northern Plains Resource Council  
16:22:09 Adrian Jawort, Montana Native Vote

**[EXHIBIT\(sts56a05\)](#)**

16:24:03 Keaton Sunchild, political director, Western Native Voice (WNV)

16:26:11 Sen. Bennett

16:26:24 Chair Kary  
 16:26:42 Dalayah Killsback, deputy director, Western Native Voice  
 16:27:55 Samuel Enemy Hunter, Montana Native Vote  
 16:29:38 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

**EXHIBIT(sts56a06)**

16:31:42 Sam Forstag, American Civil Liberties Union  
 16:34:11 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
 16:34:41 Allison Reinhardt, Montana Associated Students  
 16:35:24 Rachel Schmidt, Associated Students of Montana State University  
 16:37:34 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPRIG)  
 16:38:40 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties  
 16:41:08 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

**Additional Testimony Received:****EXHIBIT(sts56a07)****Informational Testimony:**

16:43:45 Dana Corson, Office of the Montana Secretary of State, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:44:13 Sen. Fox  
 16:45:02 Mr. Sunchild, WNV  
 16:45:32 Sen. Bennett  
 16:50:23 Rep. Noland  
 16:52:02 Sen. Ellis  
 16:53:00 Rep. Noland  
 16:53:45 Sen. Cuffe  
 16:57:00 Mr. Sunchild  
 16:57:22 Sen. Cuffe  
 16:58:20 Mr. Clark, citizen  
 16:59:23 Sen. Cuffe  
 17:01:10 Ms. Stutzer, MontPRIG  
 17:01:15 Sen. Cuffe  
 17:01:29 Sen. Sales  
 17:03:08 Mr. Corson, CSI  
 17:03:41 Chair Kary  
 17:04:15 Mr. Corson  
 17:04:35 Chair Kary  
 17:08:46 Ms. Plettenberg, clerk and recorders  
 17:09:34 Chair Kary  
 17:12:43 Rep. Noland  
 17:13:13 Chair Kary  
 17:13:47 Mr. Corson  
 17:14:49 Sen. Sales  
 17:15:14 Mr. Corson  
 17:15:51 Chair Kary  
 17:16:24 Mr. Corson

17:16:39 Chair Kary  
17:16:43 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
17:18:21 Sen. Cuffe  
17:20:26 Ms. Bode  
17:20:52 Sen. Cuffe  
17:25:43 Ms. Plettenberg  
17:26:26 Sen. Ellis  
17:26:34 Ms. Aldrich, LSD  
17:28:15 Chair Kary  
17:28:35 Ms. Aldrich

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:29:11 Rep. Noland

**HEARING ON HB 618****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:33:10 Rep. Wendy McKamey (R), HD 19, opened the hearing on HB618, Establishing public records retention time lines for legislators.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:42:24 Chair Kary  
17:45:13 Rep. McKamey  
17:45:32 Chair Kary  
17:45:42 Sen. Ellis  
17:50:04 Rep. McKamey  
17:51:20 Sen. Sales  
17:51:42 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
17:52:57 Sen. Sales  
17:53:13 Ms. Aldrich, LSD  
17:53:39 Sen. Cuffe  
17:55:53 Rep. McKamey  
17:59:33 Ms. Aldrich  
18:00:16 Chair Kary  
18:01:36 Ms. Aldrich  
18:02:23 Chair Kary  
18:03:01 Sen. Ellis  
18:03:46 Rep. McKamey

**Closing by Sponsor:**

18:04:33 Rep. McKamey

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 6:05 PM

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([sts56aad.pdf](#))