

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Terry Gauthier, on March 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the room:**

Sen. Terry Gauthier, Chair (R)  
Sen. John Esp, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Carlie Boland (D)  
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (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: SB 385, 3/18/2021; HB 527, 3/15/2021; HB 450 (continued from 3/15/2021)

**HEARING ON HB 450 (continued from 03/15/2021)**

HB 450, Provide that exempt divisions of land must meet zoning regulations.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:03:03 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1

15:07:08 Sen. Esp left the meeting.

**HEARING ON SB 385****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:07:57 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB385, Revise special district laws and provide time limit on property tax levies.

[EXHIBIT\(los58a01\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:16:13 Pam Ellis, Billings

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:19:12 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT); also speaking on behalf of Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties

15:24:00 Carter Marsh, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters

15:26:29 John MacDonald, City of Missoula; City of Bozeman

15:28:44 Rich Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance

[EXHIBIT\(los58a02\)](#)

15:31:43 Lin Stimpson, Montana City Volunteer Fire Department

15:33:27 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees

15:35:07 Al Ekblad, Montana AFL-CLO

15:35:35 Mike Boyett, City of Billings

15:36:53 Shane Grube, Hebgen Basin Fire District

**Additional Testimony Received:**

[EXHIBIT\(los58a03\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

15:38:14 Tracy Cook, Montana State Library; Montana Library Association

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:38:48 Sen. Friedel

15:39:34 Mr. Burton, MLCT

15:39:43 Sen. Friedel

15:40:14 Mr. Burton

15:40:55 Sen. Friedel

15:42:07 Sen. Pope

15:42:35 Sen. Friedel

15:42:53 Sen. Pope

15:44:08 Mr. Burton

15:45:14 Sen. Pope  
15:45:46 Mr. Burton  
15:47:50 Sen. Pope  
15:49:17 Mr. Boyett, Billings  
15:50:47 Sen. Pope  
15:51:33 Mr. Boyett

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:52:31 Sen. Hertz

**HEARING ON HB 527**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:56:22 Rep. Fiona Nave (R), HD 57, opened the hearing on HB527, Require draft proposals before initiating a county zoning/planning board.

[EXHIBIT\(los58a04\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:03:40 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

[EXHIBIT\(los58a05\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:09:33 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

16:14:28 Archie Harper, West Valley Citizens Alliance

16:21:43 Bob Grudier, West Valley Citizens Alliance

[EXHIBIT\(los58a06\)](#)

16:25:42 Tom Heyneman, Fishtail

16:28:06 Tara DePuy, Montana Association of Counties

[EXHIBIT\(los58a07\)](#)

16:31:03 Mark Johnston, Salt Lake City

16:34:29 Andrew Hagemeyer, Montana Association of Planners (MAP)

[EXHIBIT\(los58a08\)](#)

16:37:22 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center

16:40:04 Mayre Flowers, Montana Smart Growth Coalition

**Additional Testimony Received:**

[EXHIBIT\(los58a09\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:42:55 Sen. Pope

16:44:12 Mr. Hagemeyer, MAP

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:45:22 Rep. Nave

16:45:36 Sen. Esp and President Blasdel entered the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:55 PM

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Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los58aad.pdf](#))**