

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Gordon Vance, on March 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Gordon Vance, Chair (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R) (joined by Zoom Video Conference later)  
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Diane Sands (D)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Carlie Boland, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Bryce Bennett (D)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)  
Sen. Jen Gross (D)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Cary Smith (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Alex Colafrancesco, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch  
Gwyn Schooler, 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 264, 3/15/2021; HB 300, 3/15/2021; HB 350, 3/15/2021; HB  
562, 3/15/2021

15:10:33 Sen. Welborn entered the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 300**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:13:03 Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB300, Generally revise school transportation laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:15:08 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:15:37 Sen. Fitzpatrick  
15:15:58 Rep. Schillinger  
15:16:03 Sen. Sands  
15:16:25 Rep. Schillinger  
15:16:50 Sen. Sands  
15:17:21 Rep. Schillinger  
15:18:00 Sen. Friedel  
15:18:30 Rep. Schillinger  
15:19:34 Sen. Sands  
15:19:44 Rep. Schillinger

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:20:10 Rep. Schillinger

**HEARING ON HB 264**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:21:20 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB264, Revise emergency vehicle passing laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:25:47 Rich Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance, Columbus

15:29:38 Sen. Bennett entered the meeting.

15:30:28 Barry Allen, Reed Point

15:33:06 Kendra Visser, citizen

15:35:32 Jim Dusenberry, Montana Tow Truck Association

15:37:49 Dan Smith, executive director Montana Police Protective Association

15:38:33 John Iverson, AAA

15:38:49 Jessie Luther, Association of Montana Troopers

15:39:32 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

15:39:54 Brian Reed, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters

15:40:24 Duane Williams, Motor Carriers of Montana  
15:41:20 Robert Farnum, Sweet Grass County Ambulance  
[EXHIBIT\(his59a01\)](#)

15:41:28 Michael Cech, Bozeman  
15:42:25 Peggy Mathiason, Billings  
[EXHIBIT\(his59a02\)](#)

15:43:12 Shane Grube, West Yellowstone

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(his59a03\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:44:11 Cory Calnan, Fire Protection Bureau, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Additional Proponents' Testimony:

15:43:26 Mike Maltaverne, Bozeman  
15:44:31 Gerald Prete, coordinator, Traffic Incident Management Training Program  
15:45:01 Karl Siderits, fire chief, Jefferson City Volunteer Fire Department  
[EXHIBIT\(his59a04\)](#)

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:45:52 Rep. Fitzgerald

### **HEARING ON HB 562**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:46:50 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB562, Generally revise highway encroachment laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:49:18 Edward Keith Howick Jr., Townsend  
15:53:33 Jennifer Dalrymple, American Legion, Townsend

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(his59a05\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:57:01 Dwane Kailey, Department of Transportation  
[EXHIBIT\(his59a06\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

16:06:11 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:06:53 Sen. Glimm  
16:07:34 Rep. Dooling

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:08:33 Rep. Dooling

**HEARING ON HB 350**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:11:27 Rep. Brian Putnam (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB350, Generally revise school bus laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:13:20 Rep. Neil Duram, HD 2  
16:14:13 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association  
16:15:20 Emily Dean, director of advocacy, Montana School Boards Association

[EXHIBIT\(his59a07\)](#)

16:16:25 Griz Wold, Trego

[EXHIBIT\(his59a08\)](#)

16:17:41 Katrina Morrison, Kalispell

[EXHIBIT\(his59a09\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:19:24 Sen. Bennett  
16:19:56 Rep. Putnam  
16:20:36 Sen. Bennett  
16:21:01 Rep. Putnam  
16:21:45 Sen. Bennett  
16:22:26 Rep. Putnam  
16:23:57 Rep. Duram  
16:25:00 Sen. Bennett  
16:25:22 Rep. Duram  
16:26:13 Sen. Boland  
16:26:42 Rep. Putnam

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:27:14 Rep. Putnam

16:27:41 Sen. Vance

16:27:57 Sen. Sands

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:28 PM

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Gwyn Schooler, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([his59aad.pdf](#))