

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Douglas (Doug) Kary, on March 29, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

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

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Mike Fox (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)

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 588, 3/26/2021; HJ 8, 3/24/2021; SB 387, 3/25/2021; SB 389, 3/25/2021; SR 74, 3/25/2021

Executive Action: SR 74 Be Adopted

15:01:34 Chair Kary gave the duties of the Chair over to Vice Chair Vance.

HEARING ON SR 74

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:01:48 Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R), SD 22, opened the hearing on SR74, Confirm Governor's appointee for Adjutant General of Dept. of Military Affairs.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:03:01 Mike Milburn, senior policy advisor, Governor's Office

15:04:36 Major General J. Peter Hronek, appointee; director, Department of Military Affairs

EXHIBIT(sts61a01)

15:12:23 Roger Hagan, Montana Air National Guard; Department of Military Affairs

15:14:03 Lieutenant General Mike Loh, director, Air National Guard

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:16:37 Sen. Kary

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 74

15:16:56 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Sales moved that **SR 74 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ellis and Sen. Osmundson voted by proxy. (see timestamp 16:18:44)

15:18:17 Sen. Kary left the meeting.

15:18:40 Chair Vance

15:19:08 Alex Colafrancesco, Remote Meeting Coordinator

HEARING ON HB 588

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:19:28 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB588, Revise personal staff limits for executive branch.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:20:35 Stephanie Cote, Department of Justice

Opponents' Testimony:

15:21:10 Leo Berry, citizen

15:23:08 Larry Nielsen, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:25:21 Adam Haight, AFL-CIO

15:25:52 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council
15:26:38 Mick Wonnacott Laborers Local 1686
15:26:58 Jessica Wicke, Teamsters Local 2
15:27:30 Tom Osborn, executive director, North Central Independent Living Services
15:29:15 Derek Hitt, Carpenters Local Union No. 82

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:29:59 Sen. Sales
15:31:02 Rep. Knudsen
15:31:11 Sen. Cuffe
15:31:50 Rep. Knudsen

Closing by Sponsor:

15:32:06 Rep. Knudsen

HEARING ON SB 387

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:35:47 Sen. Brian Hoven (R), SD 13, opened the hearing on SB387, Generally revise teachers' retirement system.

[EXHIBIT\(sts61a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

15:48:00 Shawn Graham, executive director, Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)
15:50:58 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees

[EXHIBIT\(sts61a03\)](#)

15:51:36 Sen. Bennett entered the meeting.

15:55:18 Adam Haight, AFL-CIO
15:55:32 Mick Wonnacott, Laborers Local 1686
15:55:48 Erin Foley, Teamsters Local Union No. 2
15:56:18 Jim Larson, Teamsters Local 190
15:56:31 Eric Anderson, citizen

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:57:43 Sen. Hoven

HEARING ON SB 389**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:59:10 Sen. Brian Hoven (R), SD 13, opened the hearing on SB389, Generally revise public employees' retirement system.

EXHIBIT(sts61a04)

Proponents' Testimony: None**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:02:44 Dore Schwinden, executive director, Montana Public Employees Retirement Association (MPERA)

16:05:07 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees

EXHIBIT(sts61a05)

16:08:09 Brian Thompson, Association of Montana Retired Public Employees; Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

16:10:43 Adam Haight, AFL-CIO

16:11:01 Kim Rickard-Smeltzer, Laborers Local No.1686

16:11:27 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council

16:12:06 Derek Hitt, Carpenters Local Union No. 82

16:12:33 David Severson, citizen

16:12:52 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

16:13:16 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association

16:13:28 Erin Foley, Teamsters Local #2

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

16:13:51 Sen. Bennett

16:14:24 Mr. Schwinden, MPERA

16:15:32 Chair Vance

Closing by Sponsor:

16:15:46 Sen. Hoven

Committee Business:

16:18:03 Sen. Bennett

16:18:22 Chair Vance

16:18:29 Sen. Bennett

16:18:40 Sen. Vance

16:18:44 Sen. Bennett voted aye on SR 74. Sen. Ellis and Sen. Osmundson voted aye by proxy.

16:19:34 Sen. Vance

HEARING ON HJ 8

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:20:08 Rep. Frank Garner (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HJ8, Provide for a study of pension laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:21:58 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
16:23:13 Dave Maslowski, Montana State Firemen's Association
16:24:15 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees
16:25:24 Adam Haight, AFL-CIO
16:25:55 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council
16:26:34 Mick Wonnacott, Laborers #1686
16:26:50 Jason Rittal, deputy director, Montana Association of Counties
16:27:24 Jessica Wicks, Teamsters Local 2
16:27:38 Mark Murphy, Montana Association of Chiefs of Police
16:28:05 Derek Hitt, Carpenters Local 82
16:28:27 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association
16:29:01 Emily Dean, director, Montana School Boards Association
16:29:28 Jessie Luther, Association of Montana Troopers

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:30:23 Shawn Graham, executive director, Teachers' Retirement System
16:30:34 Dore Schwinden, executive director, Montana Public Employees Retirement Association

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:31:04 Sen. Sales
16:31:48 Rep. Garner

Closing by Sponsor:

16:32:02 Rep. Garner

16:33:17 Chair Vance

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:33 PM

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

js

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sts61aad.pdf](#))