

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chair Terry Gauthier, on March 31, 2021 at 3:04 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the room:

Sen. Terry Gauthier, Chair (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. John Esp, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Carlie Boland (D)

Members Excused:

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 403, 3/30/2021

Executive Action: SB 403 - Do Pass; HB 450 - Be Concurred in as Amended; SB 385 - Tabled;
SB 388 - Tabled; SB 397 - Tabled

HEARING ON SB 403**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:06:17 Sen. Bob Keenan (R), SD 5, opened the hearing on SB403, Revise county water and/or sewer district rate notification laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:09:05 Julie Spencer, manager, Big Fork Water and Sewer District; Woods Bay Water and Sewer District

15:14:14 Steve Wade, Montana Rural Water Systems (MRWS)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:16:47 Sen. Pope

15:17:09 Ms. Spencer, Big Fork Water & Sewer District

15:17:22 Sen. Pope

15:17:46 Mr. Wade, MRWS

15:18:25 Sen. Esp

15:18:42 Sen. Keenan

Closing by Sponsor:

15:19:10 Sen. Keenan

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 403

15:20:17 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 403 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 450

15:21:09 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved to **RECONSIDER THE PREVIOUS ACTION** on **HB 450**. (action was taken on 03/26/2021, but the bill was not reported out of committee)

Discussion:

15:21:40 Sen. Boland

15:21:44 Sen. Esp

15:22:16 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:22:37 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Esp moved **TO REMOVE AMENDMENT HB 450.1.2 AND THE CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:23:25 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **HB 450 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:23:29 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **HB 450 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(los63a01\)](#)

Discussion:

15:24:12 Sen. Boland

15:24:18 Sen. Esp

15:25:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:25:48 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Esp moved that **HB 450 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy. Sen. Esp will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 527

15:26:40 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **HB 527 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:27:03 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **HB 527 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(los63a02\)](#)

Discussion:

15:27:16 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:29:05 Sen. Pope

15:29:23 Sen. Esp

15:29:45 Sen. Boland

15:29:56 Sen. Esp

15:30:17 Sen. Pope

15:31:14 Ms. Henneman, LSD

15:32:20 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:32:45 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **HB 527 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:32:57 Sen. Pope

15:33:40 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Morigeau and Sen. Pope voting no. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy. Sen. Esp will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 385

15:35:16 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 385 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:35:31 Sen. Friedel
15:35:47 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:36:02 **Motion:** Sen. Friedel moved that **SB 385 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(los63a03)

Discussion:

15:36:50 Sen. Esp
15:37:22 Sen. Friedel
15:38:26 Sen. Esp

15:38:55 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:39:20 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 385 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:39:28 Sen. Friedel
15:42:07 Sen. Pope
15:43:33 Sen. Boland
15:44:10 Sen. Esp
15:45:14 Sen. Fitzpatrick
15:45:41 Sen. Esp

15:45:57 **Vote:** Motion failed 5-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Friedel and Sen. Gauthier voting aye. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:47:06 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Gauthier moved that **SB 385 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau were excused.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 388

15:47:48 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 388 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:48:10 Sen. Esp
15:48:16 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:48:25 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 388 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(los63a04)

Discussion:

15:50:13 Ms. Henneman, LSD

15:50:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:51:09 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 388 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:51:19 Sen. Friedel
 15:51:58 Sen. Esp
 15:52:27 Sen. Friedel
 15:53:06 Sen. Pope
 15:55:17 Sen. Boland

15:56:17 **Vote:** Motion failed 5-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Esp, Sen. Fitzpatrick and Sen. Gauthier voting aye. Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

15:57:06 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 388 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 8-2 by voice vote with Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Ellsworth voting no. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 397

15:58:01 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 397 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:58:19 Toni Henneman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
 15:58:57 Sen. Esp
 15:59:18 Chair Gauthier

15:59:36 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 397 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(los63a05\)](#)

Discussion:

15:59:49 Ms. Henneman, LSD

16:01:03 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

16:01:29 **Motion:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 397 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:02:33 Sen. Pope
 16:04:05 Sen. Boland
 16:04:43 Sen. Esp

16:05:21 **Vote:** Motion failed 4-6 by roll call vote with Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Gauthier voting aye. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau voted by proxy.

16:06:17 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Esp moved that **SB 397 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellsworth and Sen. Morigeau were excused.

16:06:46 Sen. Esp
16:07:22 Sen. Boland
16:07:32 Sen. Esp
16:07:53 Sen. Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:08 PM

Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los63aad.pdf](#))