

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

**Call to Order:** Chair Steve Fitzpatrick, on April 9, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, Chair (R)  
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)  
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Carlie Boland, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Cary Smith (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary  
Clara Bentler, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Erin Sullivan, Legislative Branch

**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 624, 4/7/2021; HB 640, 4/7/2021; HB 669, 4/7/2021

Executive Action: HB 445, HB 472, HB 493, HB 593

**HEARING ON HB 669**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:01:54 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 669, Generally revise occupational licensing laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:03:06 Margaret Morgan, Montana Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)

09:03:48 Sen. Pope entered the meeting.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

**[EXHIBIT\(bus68a01\)](#)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:04:45 Sen. Sweeney  
09:05:43 Rep. Buttrey  
09:05:56 Sen. Sweeney  
09:06:13 Rep. Buttrey  
09:06:33 Sen. Boland  
09:08:10 Rep. Buttrey  
09:08:28 Ms. Morgan, Montana IEC  
09:10:25 Sen. Boland  
09:10:29 Ms. Morgan  
09:12:43 Sen. Boland  
09:12:54 Chair Fitzpatrick  
09:13:02 Sen. Boland  
09:14:38 Sen. Pope  
09:16:03 Ms. Morgan  
09:17:19 Sen. Pope  
09:18:49 Ms. Morgan  
09:20:24 Sen. Pope  
09:21:17 Chair Fitzpatrick

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:22:02 Rep. Buttrey

**HEARING ON HB 624**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:23:46 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 624, Establish a business task force on child care.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:26:11 Mary Rutherford, Montana Community Foundation

09:27:10 Mark Kelley, citizen

**[EXHIBIT\(bus68a02\)](#)**

09:28:34 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce  
09:30:09 Mike Halligan, Washington Companies  
09:32:37 Sen. Walt Sales, SD 35  
09:35:25 Duane Preshinger, Montana Hospital Association  
09:36:39 Chris Nelson, CEO, Zoot Enterprises  
09:38:59 Rebekah Nelson, Zoot Enterprises  
09:41:10 Kathleen O'Leary, Department of Labor & Industry  
09:43:26 Kali Wicks, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana; Women's Foundation of Montana

**EXHIBIT(bus68a03)**

09:45:43 Dan Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

09:47:18 Jamie Palagi, Department of Public Health and Humans Services

09:47:49 Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (FRB)

**EXHIBIT(bus68a04)**

**Proponents' Testimony continued:**

09:49:31 Sen. Shannon O'Brien, SD 46

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:50:19 Sen. Gauthier  
09:51:25 Rep. Buckley  
09:52:40 Sen. Gauthier  
09:53:12 Sen. Gillespie  
09:53:43 Sen. Sales  
09:55:09 Chair Fitzpatrick  
09:55:19 Sen. Sweeney  
09:56:56 Mr. Halligan, Washington Companies  
09:58:10 Sen. Sweeney  
09:58:45 Mr. Halligan  
09:59:03 Sen. Sweeney  
09:59:47 Sen. O'Brien  
10:01:31 Sen. Sweeney  
10:01:49 Sen. Pope  
  
10:01:58 Sen. Sweeney left the meeting.  
  
10:02:54 Mr. Grunewald, FRB  
  
10:03:05 Sen. Ellsworth entered the meeting.  
  
10:04:35 Sen. Boland  
10:06:25 Ms. Nelson, Zoot Enterprises  
10:07:49 Sen. Boland  
10:09:02 Rep. Buckley

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:09:21 Rep. Buckley

**HEARING ON HB 640**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:10:21 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on HB 640, Generally revise marijuana laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:11:37 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

10:13:29 Sen. Boland  
10:14:28 Sen. Ellsworth  
10:15:12 Sen. Boland  
10:15:30 Sen. Ellsworth  
10:16:21 Sen. Boland

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:17:15 Sen. Ellsworth  
  
10:18:05 Chair Fitzpatrick  
  
10:19:38 Recess  
10:33:15 Reconvene

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 445**

10:33:19 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 445 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Gauthier, Sen. Small and Sen. C. Smith voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voted by proxy. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney were excused. Sen. Sweeney will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 472**

10:34:57 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 472 BE CONCURRED IN**.

10:35:11 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 472 BE AMENDED**.

[EXHIBIT\(bus68a05\)](#)

**Discussion:**

10:35:45 Sen Boldman  
10:36:18 Chair Fitzpatrick  
10:36:53 Sen. Boldman

10:37:06 Chair Fitzpatrick  
 10:37:46 Sen. Pope  
 10:38:45 Chair Fitzpatrick  
 10:39:40 Sen. Pope  
 10:40:04 Chair Fitzpatrick

10:41:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope and Sen. Sweeney voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voted by proxy.

10:41:51 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 472 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

10:41:59 Sen. Boland

10:44:20 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope and Sen. Sweeney voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voted by proxy. Sen. Fitzpatrick will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 493**

10:45:01 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 493 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:45:19 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Boland made a substitute motion that **HB 493 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voted by proxy. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney were excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 593**

10:47:18 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 593 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:47:31 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Boland made a substitute motion that **HB 593 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion failed 4-7 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope and Sen. Sweeney voting aye. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voted by proxy.

10:48:59 **Motion:** Sen. Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 593 BE AMENDED.**  
[EXHIBIT\(bus68a06\)](#)

**Discussion:**

10:49:14 Erin Sullivan, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

10:49:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voted by proxy. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney were excused.

10:50:11 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 593 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

10:50:24 Chair Fitzpatrick

10:50:25 Ms. Sullivan, LSD

10:50:33 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boland, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope and Sen. Sweeney voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. C. Smith and Sen. Sweeney voted by proxy. Sen. Ellsworth will carry the bill.

10:51:08 Chair Fitzpatrick

10:51:56 Sen. Boland

10:52:02 Chair Fitzpatrick

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:51 A.M.

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Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([bus68aad.pdf](#))