

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Douglas (Doug) Kary, on April 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary, Chair (R)
Sen. Bryce Bennett, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Gordon Vance, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Mike Fox (D)

Members Excused: None

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: SJ 23, 4/8/2021; SR 96, 4/8/2021; HB 635, 4/8/2021; HB 643, 4/8/2021; HB 522, 4/8/2021; HB 689, 4/9/2021

Executive Action: HB 497 Be Concurred In as Amended; HB 588 Be Concurred In as Amended; HB 618 Vote Tied Remains in Committee

15:00:40 Sen. Bennett entered the meeting.

HEARING ON SJ 23

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:01:22 Sen. Tom Jacobson (D), SD 11, opened the hearing on SJ23, Interim study on allowing public notice via certain electronic publications.

15:01:56 Sen. Ellis entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:03:35 Rob Cook, Montana Newspaper Association

15:04:22 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasters Association

15:05:37 Jenn Rowell, Great Falls

EXHIBIT(sts69a01)

15:06:30 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:07:38 Sen. Cuffe

15:08:40 Sen. Ellis

15:08:56 Sen. Jacobson

15:09:06 Sen. Sales

15:09:22 Sen. Jacobson

Closing by Sponsor:

15:09:51 Sen. Jacobson

HEARING ON HB 635

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:10:51 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB635, Constitutional amendment regarding vacancy for certain statewide offices.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:12:50 Sen. Cuffe

15:13:24 Rep. Skees

Closing by Sponsor:

15:13:59 Rep. Skees

HEARING ON HB 522

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:14:18 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB522, Create the Montana military strategic and economic task force.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:19:09 Roger Hagan, Montana Air & Army National Guard and Officer Enlisted Association; Montana American Legion

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:21:06 Sen. Bennett
15:22:09 Rep. Buttrey
15:22:51 Sen. Sales
15:23:43 Rep. Buttrey
15:23:55 Sen. Sales
15:24:05 Sen. Cuffe
15:24:36 Rep. Buttrey
15:24:54 Chair Kary
15:27:33 Rep. Buttrey
15:28:35 Sen. Cuffe
15:29:25 Rep. Buttrey

Closing by Sponsor:

15:29:57 Rep. Buttrey

EXHIBIT(sts69a02)

HEARING ON HB 689

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:32:15 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB689, Generally revise campaign finance and campaign practice laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

15:34:46 Anna Reely, board chair, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
15:36:51 Sen. Fox joined the meeting.
15:39:15 Liz Albers, executive director, MontPIRG

Informational Testimony:

15:40:01 Ethan Hanley, business manager, Montana Associated Students (MAS)
15:40:38 Jeff Mangan, Commissioner of Political Practices

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:40:56 Sen. Bennett
15:42:40 Rep. Dooling
15:43:12 Chair Kary
15:43:28 Mr. Hanley, MAS
15:43:48 Chair Kary
15:43:52 Ms. Alvers, MontPIRG

Closing by Sponsor:

15:44:26 Rep. Dooling

HEARING ON HB 643**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:45:22 Rep. Geraldine Custer (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB643, Allowing a disabled voter to electronically return a ballot.

15:46:28 Sen. Bennett left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:48:34 Beth Brennehan, Disability Rights Montana
15:51:13 Joel Peden, executive director, Montana Association of Centers for Independent Living
15:56:33 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR)
15:57:37 Shyla Patera, North Central Independent Living Services
15:59:05 Gina Lytle, citizen

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sts69a03\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:01:09 Sen. Vance
16:01:27 Rep. Custer
16:02:03 Sen. Sales
16:02:32 Rep. Custer
16:04:21 Sen. Ellis
16:05:00 Rep. Custer
16:05:53 Chair Kary
16:06:19 Rep. Custer
16:06:44 Sen. Vance
16:06:49 Rep. Custer
16:06:53 Sen. Vance
16:06:55 Chair Kary
16:10:03 Rep. Custer
16:10:43 Chair Kary
16:10:52 Ms. Siaperas, MACR

16:11:26 Sen. Ellis
 16:11:40 Ms. Siaperas
 16:12:18 Chair Kary
 16:12:29 Ms. Siaperas
 16:12:41 Sen. Bennett
 16:13:03 Chair Kary
 16:13:14 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR)
 16:15:46 Sen. Bennett
 16:16:16 Ms. Plettenberg, MACR
 16:17:54 Chair Kary
 16:19:36 Ms. Plettenberg

Closing by Sponsor:

16:20:16 Rep. Custer

16:21:19 Sen. Kary gave the duties of the Chair over to Vice Chair Vance.

HEARING ON SR 96

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:21:52 Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R), SD 22, opened the hearing on SR96, Confirm Governor's appointees to Board of County Printing.

[EXHIBIT\(sts69a04\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:23:44 Liane Taylor, Governor's Office

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:25:07 Sen. Bennett
 16:25:44 Sen. Kary
 16:25:50 Chair Vance

Closing by Sponsor:

16:26:06 Sen. Kary

16:26:27 Sen. Kary resumed the duties of the Chair.

16:27:41 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division

16:28:03 Recess

16:39:28 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 497

16:39:37 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 497 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:39:49 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
16:40:32 Sen. Vance
16:40:43 Ms. Aldrich, LSD
16:41:03 Sen. Vance
16:41:15 Sen. Osmundson
16:41:33 Sen. Vance

16:41:36 **Motion:** Sen. Osmundson moved that **HB 497 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(sts69a05\)](#)

Discussion:

16:41:55 Sen. Osmundson
16:42:30 Ms. Aldrich
16:42:58 Sen. Osmundson
16:43:40 Ms. Aldrich
16:43:51 Sen. Osmundson
16:44:04 Ms. Aldrich

16:44:22 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Osmundson made a substitute motion that **LINES 9 AND 10 ON AMENDMENT HB 497.2.5 BE SEGREGATED.** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:45:17 **Motion:** Sen. Osmundson moved that **HB 497 BE AMENDED WITH HB 497.2.5 AS SEGREGATED.**

Discussion:

16:47:47 Chair Kary
16:47:52 Sen. Osmundson
16:48:17 Ms. Aldrich
16:48:28 Sen. Osmundson
16:48:46 Sen. Bennett
16:50:01 Sen. Ellis
16:50:21 Sen. Osmundson
16:52:21 Sen. Cuffe
16:52:32 Sen. Osmundson
16:52:44 Sen. Ellis
16:53:06 Sen. Osmundson
16:53:29 Chair Kary
16:53:31 Sen. Cuffe

16:54:04 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-1 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett voting no.

Discussion:

16:54:35 Sen. Kary
16:54:41 Ms. Aldrich

16:54:57 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 497 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(sts69a06\)](#)

Discussion:

16:55:06 Sen. Bennett
16:55:38 Ms. Aldrich
16:55:54 Sen. Bennett

16:56:52 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:56:59 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 497 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(sts69a07)

Discussion:

16:57:06 Chair Kary
16:57:25 Sen. Ellis

16:57:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:57:59 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 497 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Osmundson will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 588

16:59:01 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 588 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:59:06 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Divisions (LSD)

16:59:56 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 588 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(sts69a08)

Discussion:

17:01:00 Ms. Aldrich, LSD
17:01:41 Chair Kary
17:01:46 Sen. Osmundson
17:02:02 Sen. Bennett

17:02:27 **Vote:** Motion carried 5-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting no.

17:02:54 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 588 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(sts69a09)

Discussion:

17:03:09 Ms. Aldrich

17:03:37 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

17:03:58 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 588 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:04:07 Sen. Bennett
17:05:38 Sen. Osmundson
17:05:52 Ms. Aldrich
17:06:00 Sen. Osmundson
17:06:10 Ms. Aldrich
17:06:44 Sen. Ellis

17:07:20 **Vote:** Motion carried 5-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Fox voting no. Sen. Kary will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 618

17:07:52 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 618 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:08:04 **Motion:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 618 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(sts69a10)

Discussion:

17:08:09 Ginger Aldrich
17:08:51 Sen. Ellis
17:09:29 Ms. Aldrich
17:10:01 Sen. Sales

17:10:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

17:10:38 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vance moved that **HB 618 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** Motion failed 4-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Bennett, Sen. Kary, Sen. Osmundson and Sen. Sales voting aye.

17:11:48 Chair Kary

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:12PM

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sts69aad.pdf](#))