

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Duane Ankney, on April 15, 2021 at 4:40 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)  
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lauren de Paepe, Committee Secretary  
Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch  
Jacquie Simmons, 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: HB 606, 4/13/2021  
Executive Action: HB 606 - Be Concurred in

16:40:09 Sen. Cuffe entered the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 606**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:40:34 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB606, Requiring opt-in for advanced meter installation.

16:40:50 Sen. Lynch entered the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:42:12 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission (PSC)

16:43:17 Jennifer Fielder, commissioner, PSC

16:43:57 Sen. Regier left the meeting.

16:44:37 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

**EXHIBIT(ens72a01)**

16:47:15 Ms. Fielder, PSC

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**EXHIBIT(ens72a02)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:46:19 Sen. Molnar

16:46:54 Mr. Hoffman, NWE

16:47:04 Sen. Molnar

16:48:38 Ms. Fielder

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:49:22 Rep. Fielder

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 606**

16:50:34 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **HB 606 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 12-0 by voice vote. Sen. Regier was excused. Sen. Small will carry the bill.

**Committee Business:**

16:51:24 Chair Ankney

16:52:07 Sen. Gauthier

16:52:17 Chair Ankney

16:52:25 Sen. Pope

16:52:33 Chair Ankney

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:52 PM

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([ens72aad.pdf](#))