

MINUTES
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (H) STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Bob Phalen-R, on March 21, 2023 at 9:02 AM, in 455

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Bob Phalen, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Heather Kellum, Secretary
Rebecca Power, Research Analyst

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 117 03/15/2023

SB 197 03/15/2023

SB 254 03/15/2023

SB 322 03/16/2023

SJ 18 03/16/2023

Executive Action:

09:04:30 Chair Dooling has arrived
09:05:24 Rep. Frazer has arrived
09:06:53 Rep. Stafman has arrived
09:10:31 Rep. Brockman has arrived
09:10:36 Rep. Running Wolf has arrived

HEARING ON SB 117 - Prohibiting use of certain funds for conducting an election

Opening Statement:

09:03:47 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 117, Prohibiting use of certain funds for conducting an election.

Proponent Testimony:

09:05:31 Becky Stockton, Private Citizen
[EXHIBIT\(230321STHa1\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230321STHa2\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230321STHa3\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230321STHa4\)](#)
09:09:59 Dana Corson, Montana Secretary of State's Office
09:10:47 Gina Reilly, Private Citizen
09:12:17 Darren Gaub, Private Citizen
09:13:02 Loy Chvilicek, Private Citizen
09:13:49 Lisa Bennett, Private Citizen
09:17:42 Madeline Mellisa, Opportunity Solutions Project

Opponent Testimony:

09:19:50 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Nation
09:22:10 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana
09:25:04 Jacqueline De Leon, Native American Rights Fund

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:28:52 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

Questions from Committee:

09:04:39 Rep. Dooling assumed the Chair.
09:29:17 Rep. Ed Stafman
09:37:01 Rep. Linda Reksten
09:38:48 Rep. Denise Baum
09:43:00 Rep. Paul Green
09:45:55 Rep. Ed Stafman
09:47:59 Rep. Linda Reksten
09:50:25 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf
09:58:46 Chair Julie Dooling
10:04:33 Rep. Denise Baum

Closing Statement:

10:06:14 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, closed the hearing on SB 117.

HEARING ON SB 197 - Revise and extend post-election audit process

Opening Statement:

10:11:57 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 197, Revise and extend post-election audit process.

Proponent Testimony:

10:16:32 Dana Corson, Montana Secretary of State's Office

10:17:12 Becky Stockton, Private Citizen

10:17:46 Terry Barney, Private Citizen

Opponent Testimony:

10:18:29 Loy Chvilcek, Private Citizen

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:22:11 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

Questions from Committee:

10:22:32 Rep. Gary Parry

10:24:49 Rep. Ed Stafman

10:26:04 Rep. Tony Brockman

10:30:43 Rep. Gary Parry

10:31:58 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:32:44 Rebecca Power

10:33:12 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

Closing Statement:

10:35:18 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SB 197.

HEARING ON SB 254 - Generally revise election laws

Opening Statement:

10:37:55 Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 254, Generally revise election laws.

Proponent Testimony:

10:38:56 Dana Corson, Montana Secretary of State's Office

10:39:26 Becky Stockton, Private Citizen

10:39:51 Robyn Morrison, Private Citizen

10:41:27 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:42:13 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:42:57 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

Closing Statement:

10:44:14 Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R), SD 19, closed the hearing on SB 254.

10:45:06 Chair Dooling has left

HEARING ON SJ 18 - Joint resolution recognizing MT 163rd Infantry Regiment

Opening Statement:

10:45:52 Sen. John Fuller (R), SD 8, opened the hearing on SJ 18, Joint resolution recognizing MT 163rd Infantry Regiment.

Proponent Testimony:

10:47:17 Bill White, American Legion

10:48:07 Ray Read, American Legion, Montana Military Museum

[EXHIBIT\(230321STHa5\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:51:18 Rep. Michael Yakawich

Closing Statement:

10:53:30 Sen. John Fuller (R), SD 8, closed the hearing on SJ 18.

11:19:17 Chair Dooling has arrived

HEARING ON SB 322 - Generally revise election laws on organization/operation of committees

Opening Statement:

10:55:24 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 322,
Generally revise election laws on organization/operation of committees.

Proponent Testimony:

10:57:36 Pam Walzer`, Private Citizen

Opponent Testimony:

11:00:47 Darren Gaub, Private Citizen

11:02:14 Becky Stockton, Private Citizen

11:03:44 Gina Reilly, Private Citizen

11:04:23 Lisa Bennett, Private Citizen

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:45:12 Vice Chair Phalen reassumed the Chair

11:07:33 Rep. Courtney Sprunger-R

11:17:26 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:19:36 Rep. Dooling reassumed the Chair.

11:21:22 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

11:22:51 Rep. Paul Green

11:28:36 Rep. Denise Baum

11:34:55 Rep. Ed Stafman
11:39:29 Rep. Frank Smith
11:41:21 Rep. Gary Parry
11:43:56 Rep. Michael Yakawich
11:44:30 Rep. Courtney Sprunger-R

Closing Statement:

11:45:38 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 322.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:48:41

Heather Kellum, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230321STHaad\)](#)