

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** Chair Marta Bertoglio-R, on March 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 472

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Larry Brewster, Chair (R)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)  
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)  
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)  
Rep. Steve Gist (R)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)  
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

**Staff Present:** Heather Kellum, Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip, 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 174 03/20/2023  
SB 206 03/20/2023  
SB 275 03/20/2023  
SB 301 03/20/2023  
SB 327 03/20/2023

Executive Action:

15:04:12 Rep. Zolnikov has arrived

**HEARING ON SB 174 - Allow counties funding for broadband infrastructure**

**Opening Statement:**

15:01:53 Sen. Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 174, Allow counties funding for broadband infrastructure.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:04:23 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties

15:06:39 Geoff Feiss, Broadband Montana

15:08:58 Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commissioner

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:12:49 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Nation

15:13:59 Bridger Mohlum, Charter Communications

[EXHIBIT\(230330LOHa1\)](#)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:21:22 Rep. Mark Thane

15:23:21 Rep. Kelly Kortum

15:27:42 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

15:28:27 Rep. Sherry Essmann

**Closing Statement:**

15:30:11 Sen. Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, closed the hearing on SB 174.

**HEARING ON SB 206 - Exempt certain cell phone use from local ordinances**

**Opening Statement:**

15:31:58 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 206, Exempt certain cell phone use from local ordinances.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:36:19 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings

15:39:50 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns

15:40:38 Robin Turner, City of Whitefish

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:43:02 Rep. Scot Kerns

15:47:03 Rep. Mark Thane

15:49:51 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

15:52:13 Rep. Sherry Essmann

15:54:42 Rep. Laurie Bishop

**Closing Statement:**

15:58:29 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 206.

**HEARING ON SB 275 - Revise definition of proposed mixing zone & well isolation zone**

**Opening Statement:**

15:59:12 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, opened the hearing on SB 275, Revise definition of proposed mixing zone & well isolation zone.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:00:16 Barb Kingery, Private Citizen  
16:03:20 Rick Breckenridge, Surveyor, Private Citizen  
16:08:17 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association  
16:10:03 Cory Shaw, Montana Building Industry Association  
16:10:35 Jeff Larsen, Private Citizen  
16:14:11 Tobias Liechti, Private Citizen  
16:20:11 Randy Brodehl, Flathead County Commissioner

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:15:59 Rachel Clark, Engineering Bureau of Department of Environmental Quality  
[EXHIBIT\(230330LOHa2\)](#)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:21:57 Rep. Linda Reksten  
16:23:39 Rep. Steven Galloway  
16:26:03 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger  
16:30:44 Rep. Steve Gist  
16:34:15 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour  
16:36:48 Rep. Steven Galloway

**Closing Statement:**

16:38:45 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, closed the hearing on SB 275.

**HEARING ON SB 301 - Revise property laws related to lakeshore regulations**

**Opening Statement:**

16:40:19 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 301, Revise property laws related to lakeshore regulations.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:43:33 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

16:44:29 Jon Sonju, Private Citizen

16:46:13 Rick Breckenridge, Private Citizen

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:47:51 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns

16:51:17 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula

16:52:21 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties

[EXHIBIT\(230330LOHa3\)](#)

16:55:10 Steve Rosso, Private Citizen

16:57:15 Kate Sheridan, Flathead Lakers

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:59:15 Rep. Linda Reksten

17:01:06 Rep. Steven Galloway

17:01:39 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour

17:05:36 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

17:08:03 Rep. Steven Galloway

17:11:53 Rep. Linda Reksten

17:14:10 Rep. Sherry Essmann

17:15:19 Rep. Laurie Bishop

17:20:54 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour

17:23:17 Chair Larry Brewster

**Closing Statement:**

17:24:33 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 301.

**HEARING ON SB 327 - Allow water well at any location within setbacks**

**Opening Statement:**

17:26:03 Sen. Carl Glimm (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 327, Allow water well at any location within setbacks.

**Proponent Testimony:**

17:29:05 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association

17:30:08 Rick Breckenridge, Private Citizen

17:31:19 Cory Shaw, Montana Building Industry Association

17:31:43 Jeff Larsen, Private Citizen

17:33:34 Tobias Liechti, Private Citizen

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:35:31 Rachel Clark, Engineering Bureau of Department of Environmental Quality

**Questions from Committee:**

17:36:00 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour

17:36:21 Rep. Linda Reksten

**Closing Statement:**

17:37:12 Sen. Carl Glimm (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 327.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:38:39

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Heather Kellum, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230330LOHaad\)](#)