

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Bob Phalen-R, on March 31, 2023 at 9:05 AM, in 455

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Julie Dooling, Chair (R)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Bob Phalen, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Denise Baum (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)  
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Paul Green (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)  
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 385 03/28/2023

Executive Action:

SB 60  
SB 190 TO TABLE  
SB 197  
SB 222 TO TABLE

SB 254

SB 338

SB 416

SB 432

09:07:53 Rep. Reksten has arrived

09:08:09 **Recessed**

10:01:38 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON SB 385 - Generally revise election laws**

**Opening Statement:**

10:05:49 Rep. Katie Zolnikov-R opened the hearing on SB 385, Generally revise election laws.

**Questions from Committee:**

10:08:29 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

10:09:08 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

10:11:08 Rep. Gary Parry

10:12:13 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:13:45 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

10:21:07 Rep. Gary Parry

10:24:30 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:28:03 Rep. Michael Yakawich

10:30:48 Rep. Denise Baum

10:36:37 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:42:06 Chair Julie Dooling

**Closing Statement:**

10:50:45 Rep. Katie Zolnikov-R closed the hearing on SB 385.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 60 - Establish enterprise fund for Montana spatial real time network**

10:54:56 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 60 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:54:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:54:56 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 190 - Generally revise election laws related to recounts**

10:56:23 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 190 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

10:56:51 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

10:57:27 Rep. Ed Stafman

10:58:19 Rep. Denise Baum

10:58:34 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:58:51 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

10:56:23 **Vote:** Motion failed 14 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Brockman, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Yakawich, voting yes.

11:01:08 **Motion:** Rep. Gary Parry moved that **SB 190 TO TABLE.**

11:01:08 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 197 - Revise and extend post-election audit process**

11:01:44 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 197 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:02:07 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

11:02:34 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:01:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 7 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.  
Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

11:01:44 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Tony Brockman

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 222 - Establish the Montana Individual Freedom Act**

11:04:22 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 222 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:04:48 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum  
11:05:21 Vice Chair Bob Phalen  
11:06:03 Rep. Linda Reksten  
11:07:39 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
11:08:48 Rep. Ed Stafman  
11:11:15 Rep. Gary Parry  
11:12:30 Rep. Paul Green  
11:13:42 Rep. Denise Baum  
11:16:23 Vice Chair Bob Phalen  
11:16:46 Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
11:17:11 Chair Julie Dooling  
11:04:22 **Vote:** Motion tied 9 - 9 by voice vote  
11:18:28 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 222 TO TABLE.**  
11:18:28 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
11:12:24 Rep. Green has arrived

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 254 - Generally revise election laws**

11:19:01 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 254 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:19:21 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum  
11:19:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
11:19:01 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Gary Parry

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 338 - Revise election laws related to candidate filing fees**

11:20:30 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 338 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
11:20:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
11:20:30 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Bob Phalen

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 416 - Revise timeline for changes to precinct boundaries after redistricting**

11:21:16 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 416 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:21:48 Rebecca Power

11:21:16 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:21:16 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Denise Baum

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 432 - Require a report on the use of Help America Vote Act funds**

11:22:55 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **SB 432 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:22:55 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.  
Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

11:22:55 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Tony Brockman

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:26:13

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Heather Kellum, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230331STHaad\)](#)