

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Mike Cuffe-R, on January 18, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 335

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Mike Cuffe, Chair (R)
Sen. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)

Staff Present: Joe Carroll, Attorney
Daisy Rhodes, 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:

SB 77 01/12/2023
SB 86 01/12/2023
SB 117 01/12/2023
SB 128 01/12/2023

Executive Action:

SB 128 DO PASS

HEARING ON SB 128 - Generally revise laws relating legislative exempt personal staff

Opening Statement:

15:01:14 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 128, Generally revise laws relating legislative exempt personal staff.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:03:39 Sen. Mark Noland

15:04:06 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:04:42 Sen. Jason Ellsworth-R

Closing Statement:

15:05:39 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, closed the hearing on SB 128.

HEARING ON SB 77 - Generally revise laws related to redistricting data for inmates

Opening Statement:

15:06:11 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, opened the hearing on SB 77, Generally revise laws related to redistricting data for inmates.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230118STSa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:09:17 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:12:36 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU-MT)

15:13:30 Nicole Gomez, Montana Women Vote (MWV)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:15:31 Cynthia Wolken, Montana Department of Corrections (MT-DOC)

15:16:03 Dan Stusek, Montana Districting and Apportionment Committee (MDAC)

Questions from Committee:

15:16:58 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:17:32 Sen. Shane Morigeau-D

15:18:03 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:18:26 Sen. Mark Noland

15:18:43 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:20:32 Sen. Mike Fox

15:20:47 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:21:12 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:21:35 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:22:35 Sen. Mike Cuffe

15:22:43 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:24:48 Sen. Mike Cuffe

15:25:04 Cynthia Wolken, MT-DOC

15:26:56 Sen. Mike Cuffe

15:27:34 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:59:59 Recessed

16:10:30 Reconvened

Closing Statement:

15:28:14 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, closed the hearing on SB 77.

HEARING ON SB 86 - Limiting the number of registered voters in each election precinct

Opening Statement:

15:29:58 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, opened the hearing on SB 86, Limiting the number of registered voters in each election precinct.

Proponent Testimony:

15:32:12 Partick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:33:24 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU-MT)

Opponent Testimony:

15:34:52 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks & Recorders (MACR)

15:37:31 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County Election Department (GCED)

15:40:50 Becky Stockton, self

15:41:56 Elizabeth Hale, self

Questions from Committee:

15:43:43 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:44:25 Sen. Shane Morigeau-D

15:45:14 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:46:06 Joe Carroll

15:46:51 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:47:01 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

15:48:28 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:49:02 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

15:49:35 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:50:15 Dan Stusek, MDAC

15:52:02 Sen. Shelley Vance

15:52:23 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

15:53:44 Sen. Shelley Vance
15:54:20 Joe Carroll
15:55:18 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:55:24 Dan Stusek, MDAC

Closing Statement:

15:57:31 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, closed the hearing on SB 86.

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

Opening Statement:

16:10:51 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 117, Prohibiting use of certain funds for conducting an election.

Proponent Testimony:

16:12:47 Darin Gaub, Restore Liberty
16:15:00 Austin James, Secretary of State (SOS)
16:15:56 Becky Stockton, self
[EXHIBIT\(230118STSa2\)](#)
16:19:46 Loy Chvilicek, self
16:21:09 Gina Reilly, self
16:23:37 Elizabeth Hale, self
16:25:17 Lisa Bennett, self
16:30:45 Madeline Malisa, Opportunity Solutions Project

Opponent Testimony:

16:34:46 Lance Four Star, Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC)
[EXHIBIT\(230118STSa3\)](#)
16:36:57 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
16:39:36 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU-MT)

16:42:10 Nicole Gomez, Montana Women Vote (MWV)

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:43:21 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders
(MACR)

Questions from Committee:

16:44:24 Sen. Wendy McKamey
16:44:57 Sen. Shelley Vance-R
16:47:08 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
16:48:50 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:49:53 Sen. Theresa Manzella
16:51:54 Sen. Shelley Vance-R
16:52:08 Sen. Mike Fox
16:52:51 Elizabeth Hale, self
16:53:12 Loy Chvilicek, self
16:55:06 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:55:46 Lance Four Star, MAIC
16:56:18 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:56:56 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
17:00:42 Sen. Janet Ellis
17:01:22 Regina Plettenberg, MACR
17:02:43 Sen. Mike Cuffe
17:03:30 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
17:06:10 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:06:46 Sen. Janet Ellis
17:07:32 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

Closing Statement:

17:08:19 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, closed the hearing on SB 117.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 128 - Generally revise laws relating legislative exempt
personal staff**

17:15:26 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 128 DO PASS.**

17:15:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:16:18

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230118STSaad\)](#)