

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on January 25, 2023 at 8:31 AM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jason Small, Chair (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mark Noland, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Staff Present: Daisy Rhodes, Secretary
Erin Sullivan, Attorney

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 142 01/20/2023

SB 161 01/20/2023

SB 177 01/20/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 177 - Revising allowed local government employer benefits

Opening Statement:

08:33:20 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 177, Revising allowed local government employer benefits.

Proponent Testimony:

08:35:10 Brad Griffin, President, Montana Retail Association, Montana Restaurant Association

08:37:47 Bob Powell, Owner, Montana Club Restaurants

08:39:26 Roth Jordan, Owner, Montana Ale Works

08:40:41 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce

08:41:01 Jennifer Cogley, Owner, Murdoch's

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

08:43:18 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, closed the hearing on SB 177.

HEARING ON SB 161 - Revise board of investment laws

Opening Statement:

08:44:01 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 161, Revise board of investment laws.

[EXHIBIT\(230125BUSa1\)](#)

08:54:20 Sen. Mike Fox joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

08:55:54 Dan Villa, Executive Director, Montana Board of Investments (BOI)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:00:32 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:01:20 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

09:02:22 Dan Villa, BOI

09:03:01 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

09:08:33 Dan Villa, BOI

09:08:50 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:09:11 Dan Villa, BOI

09:09:21 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:09:56 Sen. Brad Molnar

09:13:13 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

09:13:55 Dan Villa, BOI

09:14:57 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

09:20:31 Sen. Brad Molnar

09:22:22 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:23:05 Dan Villa, BOI

Closing Statement:

09:23:54 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, closed the hearing on SB 161.

HEARING ON HB 142 - Revise laws related to unemployment insurance theft and penalties

Opening Statement:

09:27:49 Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D), HD 73, opened the hearing on HB 142, Revise laws related to unemployment insurance theft and penalties.

Proponent Testimony:

09:28:36 Quinlan O'Conner, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:32:12 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:32:41 Quinlan O'Conner, DLI

Closing Statement:

09:33:48 Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D), HD 73, closed the hearing on HB 142.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 09:34:13

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230125BUSaad\)](#)