

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Cuffe-R, on February 01, 2023 at 3:01 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. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** 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 93 01/26/2023

SB 189 01/27/2023

SB 190 01/27/2023

Executive Action:

15:03:28            **Committee Discussion:** Committee Discussion  
15:01:44            Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:02:15            [EXHIBIT\(230201STSb1\)](#)

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

**Opening Statement:**

15:04:15            Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, opened the hearing on SB 190,  
Generally revise election laws related to recounts.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:06:29            Becky Stockton, self  
15:06:51            Gina Reilly, self  
15:07:06            Ruth Rater, self  
15:08:10            Dona Elford, self  
15:08:54            Phyllis Lamping, self  
15:09:25            Michael Leach, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:10:54            Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders  
(MACR)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:11:21            Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:15:18            Sen. Forrest Mandeville-R  
15:16:18            Chair Mike Cuffe

15:16:42 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
15:17:14 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:17:23 Regina Plettenberg, MACR  
15:18:00 Sen. Shelley Vance  
15:18:48 Joe Carroll  
15:19:00 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:20:03 Sen. Forrest Mandeville-R  
15:20:41 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:21:12 Joe Carroll  
15:21:21 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:21:38 Sen. Dan Bartel  
15:21:50 Joe Carroll  
15:22:00 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:22:12 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:22:26 Chair Mike Cuffe

**Closing Statement:**

15:22:43 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, closed the hearing on SB 190.

**HEARING ON SB 189 - Supermajority vote of Legislature to hold certain special elections  
by mail**

**Opening Statement:**

15:24:19 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, opened the hearing on SB 189,  
Supermajority vote of Legislature to hold certain special elections by mail.

**Discussion:**

15:28:14 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:29:38 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

15:31:13 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:31:25 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:31:49 Ruth Rater, self

15:35:07 Gina Reilly, self

15:38:14 Donna Elford, self

15:40:23 Phyllis Lamping, self

15:40:49 Michael Leach, self

15:41:52 Becky Stockton, self

15:42:41 Wayne Beckman, self

15:44:03 Elizabeth Hale, self

15:44:54 James Gomolka, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:46:14 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

15:47:53 Robyn Morrison, Montana League of Women Voters (LWV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:50:17 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:52:02 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

15:52:35 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:53:19 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:53:22 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

15:53:35 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:53:53 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
15:56:44 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
15:57:41 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:02:35 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
16:03:00 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:03:31 Sen. Shelley Vance  
16:05:39 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
16:06:48 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:07:45 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R  
16:08:36 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:08:48 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
16:10:37 Sen. Theresa Manzella-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:10:51 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, closed the hearing on SB 189.  
  
16:12:18 **Recessed**  
16:19:39 **Reconvened**  
16:40:29 Sen. Ellis has left  
17:08:19 Sen. Noland has arrived

**HEARING ON SB 93 - Generally revising ballot issues**

**Opening Statement:**

16:19:50 Chair Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 93, Generally revising ballot issues.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230201STSb2\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:27:10 Jessie Luther, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)  
16:39:46 Sen. Dan Bartel left the meeting.  
16:39:52 Sen. Mark Noland left the meeting.  
16:42:31 Madison Grady, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)  
16:43:32 Malissa Lewis, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)  
16:44:42 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)  
16:45:41 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)  
16:46:51 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
16:48:16 Matt Vincent, Executive Director, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:50:52 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters (LWV)  
16:56:49 Jonathan Motl, self  
17:14:51 Mark Mackin, self  
17:18:45 CB Pearson, self  
17:27:33 Mark Anderlik, Montana Democratic Socialists of America (MT DSA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:30:13 Brent Mead, Deputy Solicitor General, Department of Justice (DOJ)  
17:30:31 Austin James, Secretary of States (SOS)

**Opponent Testimony:**

17:31:12 John Meyer, self

**Questions from Committee:**

17:33:52 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
17:34:21 Brett Mead, DOJ  
17:36:26 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

17:41:07 Jessie Luther, MCC  
17:42:41 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
17:43:00 Austin James, SoS  
17:43:31 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
17:44:11 Sen. Mike Cuffe-R  
17:46:51 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

**Closing Statement:**

17:47:06 Chair Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SB 93.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:51:46

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Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230201STSbad\)](#)