

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

Call to Order: Chair Mike Cuffe-R, on February 10, 2023 at 3:07 PM, in 335

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)

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:

SR 49 02/06/2023

Executive Action:

SR 49 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
SB 222 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 197 DO PASS
SB 200 TO TABLE
SB 254 DO PASS

HEARING ON SR 49 - Confirm governor's appointee for commissioner of political practices

Opening Statement:

15:10:02 Chair Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SR 49, Confirm governor's appointee for commissioner of political practices.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230210STSa1\)](#)

15:12:24 Sen. Ellis has arrived

Proponent Testimony:

15:12:30 Glenn Opel, Governor's Office (GO)

[EXHIBIT\(230210STSa2\)](#)

15:16:07 Chris Gallus, Appointee

[EXHIBIT\(230210STSa3\)](#)

15:30:02 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

15:32:55 Charles Robinson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCOCC)

15:33:42 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

15:35:09 Evan Barrett, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:40:12 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:50:44 Chris Gallus, Appointee

15:52:59 Sen. Mark Noland

15:53:49 Chris Gallus, Appointee

15:54:56 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:58:19 Chris Gallus, Appointee

Closing Statement:

16:00:46 Chair Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SR 49.

16:02:48 **Recessed**

16:02:50 Sen. Fox has left

16:12:12 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

16:12:13 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 49 - Confirm governor's appointee for commissioner of political practices

16:12:59 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SR 49 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

16:12:59 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

16:14:24 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 222 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:14:49 Joe Carroll

16:15:07 **Motion:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick moved that **SB 222 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:15:36 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

16:16:23 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:17:55 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:18:36 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

16:19:22 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:15:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:20:22 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 222 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:20:38 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:21:40 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:25:59 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:26:02 Joe Carroll

16:26:20 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:20:22 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, voting no.
Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, By Proxy

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

16:22:51 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 197 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:23:13 Joe Carroll

16:23:54 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:24:13 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:22:51 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 200 - Revise use of party affiliation for nonpartisan races

16:27:40 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 200 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:28:00 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:29:28 Sen. Mark Noland

16:30:12 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:31:07 Sen. Shelley Vance

16:32:29 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

16:34:20 Sen. Mark Noland

16:35:29 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:36:32 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:27:40 **Vote:** Motion failed 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Manzella, Sen. Noland, Sen. Vance, voting yes.
Sen. Bartel, By Proxy

16:38:15 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 200 TO TABLE.**

16:38:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 254 - Generally revise election laws

16:38:41 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 254 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:38:56 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:38:59 Joe Carroll

16:39:26 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:38:41 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:40:24 **Committee Discussion:**

16:40:32 Joe Carroll

16:41:22 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:42:08 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:46:06

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230210STSaad\)](#)