

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on February 14, 2023 at 8:32 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:

SB 269 02/07/2023

SB 276 02/09/2023

SB 259 02/10/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 276 - Revise laws related to prevailing wage

Opening Statement:

08:32:57 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB 276, Revise laws related to prevailing wage.

[EXHIBIT\(230214BUSa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

08:45:19 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity (AFP)

Opponent Testimony:

08:46:18 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

08:47:56 Sen. Terry Vermeire left the meeting.

08:48:22 Adam Haight, Laborers Local 1686

[EXHIBIT\(230214BUSa2\)](#)

08:54:07 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council

08:58:28 Al Ekblad, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:03:55 Joel Worth, Montana Carpenters Union

09:05:41 Jackie McBroom, President, Montana State Conference of Electrical Workers

09:08:35 John Johnson, Business Agent, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:11:17 Josh Cox, Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) Local 103

09:12:35 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (MT AFL-CIO)

[EXHIBIT\(230214BUSa3\)](#)

09:14:20 Bonnie Lambert, Montana Democratic Socialists of America (MT DSA))

09:17:20 Vice Chair Mark Noland left the meeting.

09:18:17 Dave Englund, Assistant Business Manager, Boilermakers Local 11

09:18:52 Luke Hoffer, Assistant Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 233 (IBEW 233)

09:19:18 Duane Wock, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

09:19:41 Colton Chavez, Apprentice, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:20:14 Alec McVey-Touchette, self

09:20:46 Tyler Mullenbach, Apprentice, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:21:23 Dillan McDonald, Apprentice, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:21:48 Shannel Robinson, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:22:03 Walter Elliot, Apprentice, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:22:34 Nathan Dean, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:23:05 Steven Klippenes, Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation (SMART) Local 103

09:23:33 Don Halverson, Business Manager, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 459

09:24:00 Derek Hitt, Carpenters Local 82

09:25:30 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

09:25:51 Brody Hill, self

09:26:19 Rhonda Johnson, Business Agent, Teamsters Union Local 190

09:27:46 Erin Foley, Principal Officer, Teamsters Local 2

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:30:04 Eric Strauss, Employment Standards Division Administrator, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Questions from Committee:

09:30:39 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:32:52 Adam Haight, Laborers Local 1686

09:34:33 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:36:50 Adam Haight, Laborers Local 1686

09:37:49 Chair Jason Small
09:38:02 Eric Strauss, DLI
09:38:13 Sen. Walt Sales
09:38:46 Steve Wade, MCA
09:39:27 Sen. Walt Sales
09:39:55 Al Ekblad, Operating Engineers Local 400
09:41:00 Sen. Walt Sales
09:42:10 Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R
09:42:51 Chair Jason Small
09:44:08 Colton Chavez, Operating Engineers Local 400

Closing Statement:

09:45:03 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, closed the hearing on SB 276.
09:45:50 Sen. Vermeire has arrived
09:48:22 Vice Chair Noland has arrived

HEARING ON SB 269 - Establish consumer protections and disclosures in litigation financing

Opening Statement:

09:50:59 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 269, Establish consumer protections and disclosures in litigation financing.

Proponent Testimony:

09:55:14 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce
[EXHIBIT\(230214BUSa4\)](#)
09:57:37 David Bell, CEO, ALPS
[EXHIBIT\(230214BUSa5\)](#)

10:03:17 Aimee Grmoljez, American Property and Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

10:04:28 Sean Slanger, Montana Defense Trial Lawyers (MDTL)

10:04:59 Bruce Spencer, National Association of Mutual Insurance Carriers (NAMIC)

10:06:22 Cary Hegreberg, President/CEO, Montana Bankers Association

10:07:53 Richie Melby, Secretary of State's Office

10:09:13 Dan Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

10:10:19 Jack Kelly, The American Legal Finance Association

10:17:21 Gary Barnett, Executive Director, International Legal Finance Association (ILFA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:24:01 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:26:04 David Bell, ALPS

10:26:36 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:27:04 Gary Barnett, ILFA

10:27:49 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

10:29:02 Bruce Spencer, NAMIC

10:30:52 Chair Jason Small

10:32:44 David Bell, ALPS

10:34:25 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

10:35:37 Bruce Spencer, NAMIC

10:36:22 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

10:36:58 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

Closing Statement:

10:37:42 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, closed the hearing on SB 269.

HEARING ON SB 259 - Small business tax credit for paying a livable wage

Opening Statement:

10:39:51 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D), SD 84, opened the hearing on SB 259, Small business tax credit for paying a livable wage.

[EXHIBIT\(230214BUSa6\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

10:45:45 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (MT AFL-CIO)

10:47:18 Bonnie Lambert, Montana Democratic Socialists of America (MT DSA)

Opponent Testimony:

10:49:56 Allen Lloyd, Executive Director, Montana Society of CPA's (MTCPA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:51:46 Finn McMichael, Economist, Department of Revenue (DOR)

10:52:03 Jake Ford, Income and Withholding Tax Bureau Chief, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

10:52:33 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:53:55 Jake Ford, DOR

10:54:52 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

10:58:44 Jake Ford, DOR

Closing Statement:

10:59:23 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D), SD 84, closed the hearing on SB 259.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:01:31

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230214BUSaad\)](#)