

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on February 15, 2023 at 2:47 PM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Jason Small (R)

Staff Present: Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, 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 274 02/13/2023

Executive Action:

SB 237 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 240 DO PASS
SR 44 RESOLUTION ADOPTED

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 237 - Require development plans for public water and wastewater system connections

14:49:08 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SB 237 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

14:49:24 Jason Mohr

14:49:27 Sen. Mike Lang joined the meeting.

14:50:07 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SB 237 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

14:50:18 Jason Mohr

14:51:30 Sen. Walt Sales

14:50:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:52:21 Sen. Flowers has arrived

14:52:26 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SB 237 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

14:52:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 240 - Exempt certain subdivisions from environmental review

14:53:17 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SB 240 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

14:53:53 Sen. Bob Brown

14:54:34 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.

14:54:57 Sen. Ryan Lynch

14:53:17 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 4 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 44 - Confirm governor's appointees for the board of water well contractors

14:56:15 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SR 44 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

14:56:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:57:27 Recessed
15:01:54 Sen. Lynch has left
15:02:00 Sen. Small has arrived
15:04:23 Reconvened

HEARING ON SB 274 - Revising major facility siting act decision requirements

Opening Statement:

15:04:41 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 274, Revising major facility siting act decision requirements.

Proponent Testimony:

15:10:14 Darryl James, Independent Consultant Helena, Montana Infrastructure Coalition
15:15:00 Adam Haight, Laborer's Local #1686
15:15:37 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy
15:15:59 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Petroleum Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:17:17 Rebecca Harbage, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

15:17:53 Sen. Pat Flowers
15:18:42 Rebecca Harbage, DEQ
15:19:44 Sen. Pat Flowers
15:19:46 Deryl James
15:20:22 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:25:11 Rebecca Harbage, DEQ

Closing Statement:

15:26:48 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, closed the hearing on SB 274.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:27:51

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230215NASaad\)](#)