

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

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Mike Cuffe-R, on February 20, 2023 at 3:03 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. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Theresa Manzella (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 302 02/15/2023

SB 322 02/15/2023

Executive Action:

16:44:15

Committee Discussion:

16:44:16 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:45:41 Sen. Mark Noland
16:45:53 Sen. Mike Cuffe

HEARING ON SB 322 - Generally revise election laws on organization/operation of committees

Opening Statement:

15:04:30 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 322, Generally revise election laws on organization/operation of committees.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:08:00 Tom Stockton, self
15:08:43 Mark Cook, self
15:10:03 Benjamin Darrow, self

[EXHIBIT\(230220STSa1\)](#)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:16:43 Sen. Dan Bartel
15:17:45 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R
15:18:09 Sen. Mark Noland

15:18:50 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R
15:21:32 Sen. Denise Hayman
15:25:24 Benjamin Darrow
15:27:14 Sen. Wendy McKamey
15:28:10 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R
15:30:39 Sen. Janet Ellis
15:31:18 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R
15:32:42 Sen. Mark Noland
15:33:49 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R
15:34:00 Sen. Dan Bartel
15:34:18 Sen. Wendy McKamey
15:34:27 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R
15:35:55 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:37:06 Mark Cook
15:37:30 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:38:10 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R
15:39:05 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:39:13 Sen. Denise Hayman
15:40:02 Sen. Mike Cuffe

Closing Statement:

15:40:24 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 322.

HEARING ON SB 302 - Require partisan general elections for judges

Opening Statement:

15:41:10 Sen. Daniel Emrich (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 302, Require partisan general elections for judges.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:46:00 Sean Slanger, Montana Bar Association (MBA) and Montana Defense Trial Lawyers Association (MDTLA)

15:48:31 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe and Red Medicine LLC

15:49:52 Hannah Pate, Montana Women Vote (MWV)

15:50:40 Rebecca Evans, Montana Magistrates' Association (MMA)

15:53:21 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

16:01:18 Paul Pacini, self

16:04:41 Becky Piske, self

16:06:05 Jocelyn Leroux, Montana Conservation Voters

16:07:45 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters (LWV)

16:09:37 Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association (MJA)

16:13:15 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice (WNV)

16:14:17 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:17:19 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:18:20 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

16:19:12 Sen. Mike Cuffe

16:19:39 Sen. Mark Noland

16:22:03 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

16:25:13 Sen. Wendy McKamey
16:25:41 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:27:05 Sen. Wendy McKamey
16:27:23 Joe Carroll
16:27:43 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:28:31 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:29:16 Bruce Spencer, MJA
16:31:06 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:34:40 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:34:49 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:34:59 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:36:51 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:38:30 Sen. Dan Bartel

Closing Statement:

16:39:36 Sen. Daniel Emrich (R), SD 11, closed the hearing on SB 302.

Discussion:

16:44:15

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:46:48

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230220STSaad\)](#)