

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Chris Friedel-R, on February 24, 2023 at 3:54 PM, in 405

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Chris Friedel, Chair (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

Staff Present: Toni Henneman, Research Analyst
Lorna Mason, 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 336 02/15/2023
SB 358 02/16/2023
SB 376 02/16/2023
SB 381 02/17/2023
SB 463 02/23/2023
SB 467 02/23/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 336 - Allow for the creation of ambulance districts

Opening Statement:

15:55:06 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, opened the hearing on SB 336, Allow for the creation of ambulance districts.

Proponent Testimony:

15:55:40 Tom Kuntz, Red Lodge Fire Rescue

15:56:36 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.

15:59:44 Barbara Mutter, Three Forks Ambulance Service

16:02:08 Allie Kuntz, Red Lodge Fire Rescue

16:02:46 Richard Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance (MFA)

16:04:12 Allen Olsen, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:05:28 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:05:37 Allen Olen, MHA

Closing Statement:

16:06:18 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, closed the hearing on SB 336.

HEARING ON SB 463 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana

Opening Statement:

16:07:45 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 463, Generally revise laws related to alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:13:24 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)
16:14:54 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.
16:16:53 Erin McGowen, Confluent Health Alliance
16:17:59 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association (MCMOA)
16:18:51 Bob Olsen, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)
16:19:29 Liz Albers, American Heart Association (AHA)
16:25:01 Sen. Kenneth Bogner joined the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:25:20 Dacia English, Department of Revenue (DOR)
16:25:48 Nicole Aune, Montana Department of Human Services (MDHS)

Questions from Committee:

16:26:29 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
16:27:55 Sen. Jeremy Trebas-R
16:29:14 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
16:32:04 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
16:33:28 Sen. Christopher Pope
16:35:42 Nicole Aune, MDHS
16:37:14 Sen. Ellie Boldman
16:43:27 Nicole Aune, MDHS
16:43:48 Sen. Ellie Boldman
16:44:05 Dacia English, DOR
16:47:03 Sen. Ellie Boldman
16:47:10 John Iverson, MTA

16:49:30 Sen. Ellie Boldman

16:49:52 Sen. Jeremy Trebas-R

Closing Statement:

16:51:40 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 463.

HEARING ON SB 358 - Require disclosure of taxpayer funds for lobbying by local governments/schools

Opening Statement:

16:54:49 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 358, Require disclosure of taxpayer funds for lobbying by local governments/schools.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:01:14 Sen. Ellie Boldman

17:01:45 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

17:03:46 Sen. Chris Friedel left the meeting.

Closing Statement:

17:04:01 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, closed the hearing on SB 358.

HEARING ON SB 467 - Revise laws regarding local regulation of short-term rentals

Opening Statement:

17:05:06 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 467, Revise laws regarding local regulation of short-term rentals.

Proponent Testimony:

17:07:21 Bryan Wells, self
17:09:51 Theresa Harkins, self
17:12:06 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity (AFP)
17:13:31 Sam Sill, Montana Association Realtors (MARS)
17:14:27 Dan Scattum, self
17:15:29 Leslie Everett, self

Opponent Testimony:

17:17:26 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging Association (MLA)
[EXHIBIT\(230224LOSb1\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230224LOSb2\)](#)
17:19:54 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
17:21:50 joined the meeting.
17:22:17 Terry Cunningham, self
17:23:45 Izzy Milch, Forward Montana

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:26:10 Sen. Christopher Pope
17:26:19 Terry Cunningham, self
17:29:14 Sen. Ellie Boldman
17:33:43 Terry Cunningham, self
17:34:24 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov joined the meeting.
17:36:29 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
17:38:14 Terry Cunningham, self

17:38:53 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
17:39:38 Sen. Jeremy Trebas-R
17:41:24 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
17:42:03 Sen. Jeremy Trebas-R
17:42:19 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
17:42:51 Terry Cunningham, self
17:43:09 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov left the meeting.

Closing Statement:

17:46:01 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 467.

HEARING ON SB 376 - Revise covenant laws

Opening Statement:

17:49:37 Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 376, Revise covenant laws.

Proponent Testimony:

17:52:35 Sam Forstag, City of Bozeman
17:54:28 Robin Turner, Women's Foundation of Montana (WFM)
17:57:10 Katlyn Jenson, ZEROTOFIVE
[EXHIBIT\(230224LOSb3\)](#)
17:58:56 Sen. Chris Friedel joined the meeting.
17:59:28 Ella Smith, Montana Advocate for Children
18:01:46 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish
18:02:44 Dan Brooks, City of Billings
18:04:45 Mike Veselik, Self
18:06:18 Erin Moots, Childcare Montana
18:08:23 Tori Sproles, Childcare Connections

18:10:24 Stephanie Baucus, self

Opponent Testimony:

18:13:47 Bill Gowan, Montana Land Title Association (MLTA)

[EXHIBIT\(230224LOSb4\)](#)

18:17:46 Alanah Griffeth, self

[EXHIBIT\(230224LOSb5\)](#)

18:21:36 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MARS)

18:24:39 Sen. Jeremy Trebas joined the meeting.

18:24:45 Ronda Wiggers, self

[EXHIBIT\(230224LOSb6\)](#)

18:25:31 Bob Sewell, Montana Land Title Association (MLTA)

18:26:02 joined the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

18:32:38 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

18:33:59 Mike Veselik, self

18:37:11 Sen. Christopher Pope

18:37:41 Alanah Griffith, self

18:40:29 Sen. Chris Friedel

18:41:00 Alanah Griffith, self

18:43:34 Sen. Chris Friedel

18:44:49 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

18:49:09 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

18:52:32 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

18:56:53 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

18:59:19 Alannah Griffith, self

Closing Statement:

18:40:14 Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R), SD 19, closed the hearing on SB 376.

HEARING ON SB 381 - Require one council member per ward of first-class cities

Opening Statement:

18:43:00 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 381, Require one council member per ward of first-class cities.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

18:46:56 Doug Russell, City of Kalispell

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

18:49:42 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

18:52:20 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

18:53:24 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

18:54:13 Sen. Christopher Pope

18:55:18 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

18:59:42 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

19:02:48 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

19:03:25 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

19:05:56 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

Closing Statement:

19:06:31

Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 381.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 19:16:40

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230224LOSbad\)](#)