

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

Call to Order: Chair Wendy McKamey-R, on February 27, 2023 at 3:36 PM, in 335 - Upon Adjournment of Floor

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (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 416 02/21/2023
SB 424 02/21/2023
SB 472 02/24/2023
SB 498 02/24/2023
SB 503 02/27/2023
SJ 17 02/27/2023

Executive Action:

SB 416 DO PASS
SB 424 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 472 TO TABLE
SB 481 DO PASS
SB 482 DO PASS
SB 498 DO PASS
SB 503 TO TABLE

SB 156 TO TABLE
SJ 17 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HEARING ON SB 416 - Revise timeline for changes to precinct boundaries after redistricting

Opening Statement:

15:38:19 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SB 416, Revise timeline for changes to precinct boundaries after redistricting.

Proponent Testimony:

15:42:07 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula

15:43:22 Lisa Bennett, self

15:44:33 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:46:54 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, closed the hearing on SB 416.

15:57:26 Chair Cuffe has arrived

HEARING ON SB 424 - Generally revise laws related to executive branch personal staff

Opening Statement:

15:49:30 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, opened the hearing on SB 424, Generally revise laws related to executive branch personal staff.

Proponent Testimony:

15:51:16 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's Office
15:52:49 Austin Knudsen, Montana Attorney General

Opponent Testimony:

15:54:12 Quint Nyman, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:55:38 Sen. Janet Ellis
15:57:04 Sen. Forrest Mandeville-R
15:57:45 Vice Chair Denise Hayman
16:00:11 Quint Nyman, MFPE
16:00:38 Vice Chair Denise Hayman
16:01:15 Sen. Forrest Mandeville-R
16:02:08 Sen. Janet Ellis
16:02:43 Sen. Forrest Mandeville-R
16:02:54 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
16:03:41 Sen. Janet Ellis
16:04:16 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
16:04:43 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:05:24 Sen. Forrest Mandeville-R
16:05:44 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:06:37 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
16:06:53 Sen. Mike Fox
16:07:26 Sen. Forrest Mandeville-R

16:07:42 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:08:05 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
16:08:59 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:09:24 Quint Nyman, MFPE
16:10:18 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

Closing Statement:

16:10:38 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, closed the hearing on SB 424.

HEARING ON SB 498 - Revise laws related to absentee ballots

Opening Statement:

16:13:40 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, opened the hearing on SB 498, Revise laws related to absentee ballots.

Proponent Testimony:

16:18:49 Lisa Bennett, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:20:45 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR)

Questions from Committee:

16:21:15 Sen. Janet Ellis
16:22:08 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

Closing Statement:

16:23:08 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, closed the hearing on SB 498.

HEARING ON SJ 17 - Joint resolution recognizing veterans and military service

Opening Statement:

16:25:35 Sen. Mike Fox (D), SD 16, opened the hearing on SJ 17, Joint resolution recognizing veterans and military service.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:29:21 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:29:33 Sen. Mark Noland

16:30:00 Sen. Mike Fox-D

16:30:32 Chair Mike Cuffe

Closing Statement:

16:30:53 Sen. Mike Fox (D), SD 16, closed the hearing on SJ 17.

HEARING ON SB 503 - Generally revise political party committee laws

Opening Statement:

16:33:51 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 503, Generally revise political party committee laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:44:01 Lisa Bennett, self

16:46:05 Loy Chvilicek, self

16:46:24 Allison Williams, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:47:09 Sen. Mark Noland
16:52:42 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
16:55:57 Sen. Janet Ellis
16:57:38 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
16:59:08 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:00:06 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
17:00:48 Vice Chair Denise Hayman
17:02:26 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
17:09:11 Sen. Shelley Vance
17:09:44 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
17:10:03 Sen. Mark Noland
17:11:00 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
17:11:47 Chair Mike Cuffe
17:12:25 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
17:15:32 Chair Mike Cuffe
17:15:41 Sen. Wendy McKamey-R
17:16:25 Chair Mike Cuffe

Closing Statement:

17:16:48 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, closed the hearing on SB 503.

Opening Statement:

17:18:25 Sen. Daniel Emrich (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 472, Generally revise election laws.

Proponent Testimony:

17:32:07 Loy Chvilicek, self

17:34:27 Allison Williams, self

17:35:04 Brett Williams, self

17:35:28 Lisa Bennett, self

Opponent Testimony:

17:37:16 Nancy Perry, self

17:39:52 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

17:41:53 Jennifer Hensley, Missoula County

17:43:25 Alan Doane, Department of Justice (DOJ)

17:44:24 Margaret Stockwell, self

17:46:10 Becky Piske, self

17:47:39 Evan Preston, Advocates for Secure Democracy USA

17:49:26 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:51:14 Sen. Theresa Manzella

17:51:41 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

17:52:34 Sen. Mark Noland

17:53:30 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

17:54:01 Sen. Shelley Vance

17:57:35 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
17:58:33 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:59:22 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

Closing Statement:

18:00:41 Sen. Daniel Emrich (R), SD 11, closed the hearing on SB 472.

18:05:49 **Recessed**

18:22:22 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 416 - Revise timeline for changes to precinct boundaries after redistricting

18:22:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 416 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:22:44 Sen. Janet Ellis
18:23:47 Sen. Dan Bartel
18:24:20 Sen. Shelley Vance
08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 424 - Generally revise laws related to executive branch personal staff

18:25:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 424 DO PASS.**
18:26:11 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 424 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:26:34 Sen. Janet Ellis
18:26:56 Joe Carroll
18:27:24 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, voting no.
18:28:39 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 424 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 472 - Generally revise election laws

18:29:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 472 DO PASS.**

18:30:09 **Motion:** Sen. Janet Ellis moved that **SB 472 TO TABLE.**

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 481 - Require cast vote records

18:30:38 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 481 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:30:52 Sen. Theresa Manzella

18:31:27 Chair Mike Cuffe

18:31:41 Sen. Theresa Manzella

18:31:55 Sen. Janet Ellis

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Hayman, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 482 - Revise laws related to voting system testing and certification

18:33:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 482 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:33:46 Sen. Shelley Vance

18:34:14 Chair Mike Cuffe

18:34:55 Sen. Theresa Manzella

18:35:31 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

18:36:30 Sen. Mark Noland

18:37:00 Chair Mike Cuffe

18:37:58 Sen. Dan Bartel

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Hayman, Sen. McKamey, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 498 - Revise laws related to absentee ballots

18:38:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 498 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:39:11 Sen. Theresa Manzella

18:39:31 Sen. Dan Bartel

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 503 - Generally revise political party committee laws

18:40:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 503 DO PASS.**

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion tied 5 - 5 roll call vote

18:41:38 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 503 TO TABLE.**

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 156 - Require elected county clerks to run nonpartisan

18:43:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 156 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:43:32 Sen. Dan Bartel

18:44:42 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Janet Ellis moved that **SB 156 TO TABLE.**

08:57:23 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 17 - Joint resolution recognizing veterans and military service

18:46:17 **Motion:** Sen. Mike Fox moved that **SJ 17 DO PASS.**

18:46:26 **Motion:** Sen. Mike Fox moved that **SJ 17 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:46:54 Joe Carroll

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

18:47:44 **Motion:** Sen. Mike Fox moved that **SJ 17 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

08:57:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:49:30

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230227STSaad\)](#)