

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on February 28, 2023 at 8:01 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. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Staff Present: Lynnette Sena, 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 380 02/23/2023
SB 386 02/23/2023
SB 415 02/23/2023
SB 421 02/23/2023
SB 444 02/23/2023
SB 451 02/24/2023
SB 475 02/23/2023
SB 492 02/24/2023
SB 501 02/27/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 451 - Revise healthcare contract laws to prohibit certain restrictions

Opening Statement:

08:03:45 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 451, Revise healthcare contract laws to prohibit certain restrictions.

Proponent Testimony:

08:04:56 Jon Metropoulos, Montana Psychiatric Association (MPA)

08:06:47 Tim Clement, Montana Psychiatric Association (MPA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:08:39 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:09:21 Jon Metropoulos, MPA

08:09:44 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:10:24 Sen. Jason Small-R

08:10:45 Sen. Walt Sales

08:11:15 on Metropoulos, MPA

08:12:35 Sen. Walt Sales

08:12:49 on Metropoulos, MPA

Closing Statement:

08:13:03 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 451.

08:45:57 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

HEARING ON SB 380 - Generally revise healthcare insurance laws

Opening Statement:

08:13:30 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 380, Generally revise healthcare insurance laws.

Proponent Testimony:

08:15:08 Jon Metropoulos, Montana Psychiatric Association (MPA)

08:17:01 Kimberly Longcake, Montana Chapter of American Association of Pediatrics (AAP)

08:23:19 Lauren Wilson, Montana Medical Association (MMA)

08:27:10 Marian Kummer, American Association of Pediatrics (AAD)

08:28:14 Stacy Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA)

08:29:00 Duane Preshinger, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)

08:29:32 Tim Clement, Montana Psychiatric Association (MPA)

Opponent Testimony:

08:30:43 John Doran, Blue Cross and Blue Shield

08:36:25 Alex Sommer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield

08:38:39 Bruce Spencer, Cigna Insurance

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa1\)](#)

08:42:22 Sean Slanger, American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

08:43:57 Tonia Sorrell-Neal, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:45:11 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:45:40 Lauren Williams, MMA
08:46:57 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:48:43 John Doran, BCBS
08:49:34 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.
08:49:39 Sen. Christopher Pope
08:52:12 John Doran, BCBS
08:52:44 Sen. Christopher Pope
08:53:07 John Doran, BCBS
08:53:53 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:54:10 Kim Longcake, AAD

Closing Statement:

08:54:59 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 380.

09:07:16 Chair Small has left

HEARING ON SB 501 - Revise insurance requirements relating to insurer and automobile repair

Opening Statement:

09:00:41 Sen. Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 501, Revise insurance requirements relating to insurer and automobile repair.

Proponent Testimony:

09:02:27 Drew Geiger, Montana Collision Association (MCRA)
09:04:12 Ted Culbertson, self
09:05:36 Olaf Smith, self

Opponent Testimony:

09:07:36 Catalina Jelkh Pareja, LKQ Corporation
09:11:06 Emil Nusbaum, Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:16:13 Sen. Christopher Pope
09:18:23 Ted Culbertson, self
09:18:32 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:19:18 Drew Geiger, MCRA
09:20:24 Sen. Walt Sales
09:21:49 Drew Geiger, MCRA
09:22:12 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:22:33 Drew Geiger, MCRA
09:23:29 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:24:21 Drew Geiger, MCRA

Closing Statement:

09:24:42 Sen. Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, closed the hearing on SB 501.
09:29:36 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

HEARING ON SB 421 - Generally revise vehicle salvage laws

Opening Statement:

09:29:30 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 421, Generally revise vehicle salvage laws.

Proponent Testimony:

09:33:04 Will Selph, Department of Justice (DOJ)
[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa2\)](#)
09:37:49 Laurie Bakri, Motor Vehicle Department (MVD)

09:39:01 Jacob Griffith, Department of Justice (DOJ)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:41:02 Amy Steinmetz, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

09:41:57 Sen. Christopher Pope

09:42:49 Will Selph, DOJ

09:44:15 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:44:57 Will Selph, DOJ

09:45:44 Sen. Walt Sales

09:48:07 Will Selph, DOJ

09:48:54 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:49:39 Will Selph, DOJ

Closing Statement:

09:50:25 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 421.

10:32:14 Vice Chair Noland has left

10:35:08 Chair Small has arrived

HEARING ON SB 475 - Generally revise indoor vaping laws

Opening Statement:

09:53:56 Vice Chair Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 475, Generally revise indoor vaping laws.

Proponent Testimony:

09:57:43 Liz Albers, American Heart Association (AHA)

09:59:50 Kristin Page-Nei, American Cancer Society Action Network (ACSCAN)

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa4\)](#)

10:02:03 Lionel Tapia, American Academy of Pediatricians

10:03:32 Lynne Foss, American Academy of Pediatricians

10:05:41 Amanda Cahill, American Lung Association (ALA)

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa5\)](#)

10:07:25 Becky Franks, Cancer Support Community Montana (CSC)

10:08:41 Dr. Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA)

10:08:58 Lauren Wilson, Montana Medical Association (MMA)

10:10:43 Dr. Paul Smith, self

10:11:59 Cathy White, Academy of Pediatrics

10:13:29 Char Day, Americans for Non-Smokers Rights

10:15:10 Shawna Yates, self

10:16:43 Brittany Grant, self

10:18:03 Charlie Moses, Parents Against Vaping and E-Cigarettes

Opponent Testimony:

10:20:11 Keith Bowman, self

10:22:27 Deanna Marshall, self

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa6\)](#)

10:24:34 Ron Marshall, self

10:26:28 Tommi Dobbs, self

10:26:52 Brett Clement, self

10:28:38 Kevin Barland, self

10:29:32 Devin Plant, self
10:30:30 Robert Cracraft, self
10:30:46 Tony Nobs, self
10:31:03 Karen Lensing, self
10:31:20 Wesley Carol, self
10:31:52 Lucus Anderson, self
10:32:33 Tim Andrews, Americans for Tax Reform

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:33:50 Nicole Aune, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

10:34:25 Sen. Christopher Pope
10:35:16 Amanda Cahill, ALA
10:36:49 Sen. Christopher Pope
10:37:18 Amanda Cahill, ALA
10:38:03 Sen. Christopher Pope
10:38:07 Amanda Cahill, ALA
10:38:13 Chair Jason Small
10:38:19 Amanda Cahill, ALA
10:38:34 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
10:40:24 Ron Marshall, rep
10:41:58 Vice Chair Mark Noland joined the meeting.
10:42:42 Sen. Christopher Pope
10:43:13 Lynn Foss, AAP

Closing Statement:

10:44:35 Vice Chair Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, closed the hearing on SB 475.

HEARING ON SB 386 - Revise laws relating to real estate transaction

Opening Statement:

10:49:21 Vice Chair Mark Noland (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 386, Revise laws relating to real estate transaction.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:53:35 Randy Snyder, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:59:41 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.

10:59:45 Sen. Christopher Pope

11:00:04 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

11:00:08 Sen. Mark Noland-R

11:01:52 Sen. Christopher Pope

11:04:54 Randy Snyder, self

Closing Statement:

11:05:51 Vice Chair Mark Noland (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 386.

HEARING ON SB 492 - Revise insurance laws relating to the duty to defend

Opening Statement:

11:08:08 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 492, Revise insurance laws relating to the duty to defend.

Proponent Testimony:

11:12:09 Frank Cote, Commission of Securities and Insurance

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

11:12:59 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 492.

HEARING ON SB 415 - Revise dental insurance laws

Opening Statement:

11:13:15 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 415, Revise dental insurance laws.

Proponent Testimony:

11:15:22 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association (MDA)

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa7\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

11:19:02 Ammie Grmoljez, Delta Dental

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa8\)](#)

11:22:15 John Doran, Blue Cross Blue Shield

11:24:54 Bruce Spencer, Cigna Insurance

11:27:47 Shawn Slanger, Americans Heath Insurance Plans

11:29:06 Melissa Shannon, Pacific Source Health

[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa9\)](#)

11:29:57 James Mullen, Delta Dental

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:33:42 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
11:34:07 Bruce Spencer, Cigna
11:34:50 Sen. Christopher Pope
11:35:34 John Doran, Blue Cross Blue Sheild
11:36:54 Sen. Christopher Pope
11:38:40 Sen. Greg Hertz-R
11:38:52 Sen. Walt Sales
11:40:26 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

Closing Statement:

11:41:22 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 415.

HEARING ON SB 444 - Generally revise labor laws related to work-based learning

Opening Statement:

11:43:54 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 444, Generally revise labor laws related to work-based learning.

Proponent Testimony:

11:46:24 Lance Melton, Montana School Board Association
[EXHIBIT\(230228BUSa10\)](#)
11:49:18 David Smith, Executive Director, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)
11:51:26 Webb Brown, American Dental Association (ADA)
11:51:59 Gene Dudley, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

11:53:08 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)

Questions from Committee:

11:53:36 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

11:53:58 Lance Melton, Montana School

Closing Statement:

11:55:13 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 444.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:58:25

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230228BUSaad\)](#)