

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

Call to Order: Chair Mike Cuffe-R, on March 17, 2023 at 3:01 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. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

Members Excused: 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:

HB 110 03/02/2023
HB 172 03/14/2023
HB 173 03/14/2023
HB 186 03/14/2023
HB 196 03/14/2023
HB 273 03/10/2023

Executive Action:

HB 273
HB 110
HB 172
HB 173

HEARING ON HB 186 - Revise dates for special purpose elections

Opening Statement:

15:03:30 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 186, Revise dates for special purpose elections.

Proponent Testimony:

15:05:20 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

15:06:28 Mike Veselik, City of Bozeman

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:09:01 Sen. Shelley Vance

15:14:46 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

15:15:11 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:15:34 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

15:15:51 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:16:22 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

15:17:18 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:17:49 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

15:19:10 Chair Mike Cuffe

Closing Statement:

15:19:57 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, closed the hearing on HB 186.

HEARING ON HB 196 - Revise election laws related to the counting of votes

Opening Statement:

15:22:56 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 196, Revise election laws related to the counting of votes.

Proponent Testimony:

15:25:29 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of State Office

[EXHIBIT\(230317STSa1\)](#)

15:27:38 Cathy Carlson, self

15:30:31 Terri Barney, self

15:31:23 Robin Morrison, self

15:32:31 Lisa Bennett, self

Opponent Testimony:

15:36:14 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

15:38:41 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula

15:41:45 Shari Robertson, County of Prairie

15:44:15 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Court Reporters (MACR)

15:48:18 Robyn Morrison, Montana League of Women Voters (LWV)

15:50:20 Janel Tucek, County of Fergus

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:52:18 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:55:23 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R

15:55:33 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:56:54 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R
15:57:25 Sen. Janet Ellis
15:57:34 Dana Corson, SOS
15:58:23 Sen. Janet Ellis
15:58:45 Chair Mike Cuffe
15:59:05 Sen. Theresa Manzella
15:59:47 Dana Corson, SOS
16:00:04 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:00:49 Dana Corson, SOS
16:01:29 Sen. Dan Bartel
16:04:35 Dana Corson, SOS
16:05:30 Chair Mike Cuffe
16:08:39 Dana Corson, SOS
16:09:11 Chair Mike Cuffe

Closing Statement:

16:11:32 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 196.

HEARING ON HB 273 - Generally revise laws relating to the director of the state lottery

Opening Statement:

16:14:22 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 273, Generally revise laws relating to the director of the state lottery.

Proponent Testimony:

16:16:01 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's Office
16:17:11 Don Harris, Chief Legal Council, Department of Administration (DOA)
16:18:42 Scott Sales, Director, Montana Lottery

[EXHIBIT\(230317STSa2\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:19:56 Sen. Dan Bartel

Closing Statement:

16:20:07 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, closed the hearing on HB 273.

HEARING ON HB 110 - Making interim budget committees permanent

Opening Statement:

16:21:34 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 110, Making interim budget committees permanent.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:23:57 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:26:09 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

16:28:31 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

16:28:48 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:29:34 Chair Mike Cuffe

Closing Statement:

16:30:56 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 110.

HEARING ON HB 172 - Revise laws related to post-election audits

Opening Statement:

16:31:30 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 172, Revise laws related to post-election audits.

Proponent Testimony:

16:33:52 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of State (SOS)

16:34:49 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:35:30 Terry Barney, self

16:35:45 Steve Turkiewicz, Secure Democracy USA

16:36:50 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters (LWV)

16:38:34 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

16:39:57 Jeff Burrows, County of River

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

16:41:13 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 172.

HEARING ON HB 173 - Revise laws related to security of vote tabulating machines

Opening Statement:

16:41:43 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 173, Revise laws related to security of vote tabulating machines.

Proponent Testimony:

16:43:07 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of State Office (SOS)

16:43:53 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:44:15 Terry Barney, self

16:44:54 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks (MACR)

16:45:44 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters (LWV)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:46:51 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:49:06 Rep. David Bedey-R

16:50:25 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:50:49 Rep. David Bedey-R

16:51:35 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:52:04 Rep. David Bedey-R

16:52:45 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

16:53:36 Rep. David Bedey-R

16:54:10 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:54:44 Rep. David Bedey-R

16:56:02 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:56:24 Rep. David Bedey-R

Closing Statement:

16:57:19 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 173.

17:19:04 **Committee Discussion:** SB108

17:19:23 Sen. Dan Bartel

17:19:46 Chair Mike Cuffe

17:19:56 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

17:20:47 Chair Mike Cuffe

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 273 - Generally revise laws relating to the director of the state lottery

17:27:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 273 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:17:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:27:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Dan Bartel

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 110 - Making interim budget committees permanent

17:29:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 110 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:17:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:29:08 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Wendy McKamey

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 172 - Revise laws related to post-election audits

17:29:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 172 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:17:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:29:27 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 173 - Revise laws related to security of vote tabulating machines

- 17:29:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 173 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 11:17:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 17:29:55 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Janet Ellis

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:20:58

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230317STSaad\)](#)