

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 21, 2023 at 2:53 PM, in 317

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Walt Sales, Chair (R)  
Sen. Jason Small, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)  
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)  
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

**Staff Present:** Hunter Camac, Attorney  
Jason Mohr, OBPP Staffer  
Jack Racicot, 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 804 03/18/2023

Executive Action:

HB 47

HB 558 TO TABLE

14:55:08 Vice Chair Lynch has arrived

14:55:31 **Committee Discussion:** Jason Mohr Discussing Amendments for HB 47 and HB 558 (14:55:31)

14:55:37 Jason Mohr

14:58:29 Chair Walt Sales

14:59:01 Jason Mohr

14:59:53 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:00:09 Chair Walt Sales

15:00:28 **Recessed**

15:15:30 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 47 - Generally revise the Montana Information Technology Act**

15:15:37 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 47 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:15:58 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 47 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:16:29 Jason Mohr

15:16:51 Vice Chair Ryan Lynch

15:15:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:17:28 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 47 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:18:57 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

15:17:28 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:20:37 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 47 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:21:12 Sen. Keith Regier

15:20:37 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:22:17 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 47 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

15:22:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:22:17 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 558 - Revising PSC deposition laws**

15:23:00 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 558 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:23:16 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 558 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:23:37 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

15:24:42 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:25:14 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

15:26:00 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:26:06 Jason Mohr

15:26:53 Sen. Denise Hayman

15:23:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Molnar, Sen. Pope, voting no.

15:28:01 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 558 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:28:16 Sen. Brad Molnar

15:32:16 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:28:01 **Vote:** Motion tied 6 - 6 roll call vote

15:35:21 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 558 TO TABLE.**

15:35:21 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Regier, voting no.  
Sen. Fitzpatrick, By Proxy

15:35:21 Sen. Molnar has left

15:37:01 Sen. Zolnikov has left

15:55:40 Sen. Cuffe has left

15:59:02 Sen. Molnar has arrived

16:06:01 Sen. Regier has left  
16:10:39 Sen. Cuffe has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 804 - Providing broadband funding review requirements**

**Opening Statement:**

15:37:44 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 804, Providing broadband funding review requirements.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:42:58 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

[EXHIBIT\(230321ENSa1\)](#)

15:49:56 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

15:52:32 Jade Bahr, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

15:54:01 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association (MLA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:55:21 Bridger Mahlum, Charter Communications (CC)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:58:12 Sen. Denise Hayman  
16:00:35 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf-D  
16:03:08 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel  
16:05:18 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf-D  
16:05:27 Sen. Christopher Pope  
16:08:18 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf-D  
16:08:44 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:09:22 Bridger Mahlum, CC

16:10:09 Jason Mohr  
16:10:31 Chair Walt Sales  
16:11:11 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf-D

**Closing Statement:**

16:11:58 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, closed the hearing on HB 804.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:14:20

---

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230321ENSaad\)](#)