MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE

68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON (S) JUDICIARY

Call to Order: Chair Keith Regier-R, on March 23, 2023 at 7:59 AM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Sen. Keith Regier, Chair (R)
	Sen. Jen Gross, Vice Chair (D)
	Sen. Bob Brown (R)
	Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
	Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
	Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)
	Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
	Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
	Sen. Susan Webber (D)
Members Excused:	Sen. Kathy Kelker (D)
	Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Staff Present:	Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney
	Grace Gibney, 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 322 03/14/2023
> HB 425 03/15/2023
> HB 598 03/17/2023
> SB 509 03/17/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 598 - Prohibit use of ranked-choice voting methods

Opening Statement:

08:00:19   Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 598, Prohibit use of ranked-choice voting methods.

Discussion:

EXHIBIT(230323JUSa1)

Proponent Testimony:

08:03:25   Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Montana Office Secretary of State

08:04:54   Gina Reilly, self

08:06:12   Madeline Malisa, Opportunity Solutions Project (OSP)

Opponent Testimony:

08:09:23   Sherri Meador, self

08:10:55   Rich Harris, self

08:14:43   Melinda Leas, self

08:18:01   Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

08:20:25   Eric Buhler, Executive Director, Rank Choice Vote Montana (RCVMT)

08:23:53   Donald Jacques, self

08:27:03   Paul Pacini, self

08:29:00   Josh Daniels, County Clerk/ Auditor, Utah County

08:36:06   Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters Montana (LWVMT)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:37:40   Vice Chair Jen Gross

08:38:33   Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Montana Office Secretary of State

08:42:30	Sen. Susan Webber
08:42:48	Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R
08:43:54	Sen. Susan Webber
08:44:22	Melinda Leas, self
08:46:04	Sen. Andrea Olsen
08:47:08	Eric Buhler, RCVMT
08:48:06	Vice Chair Jen Gross
08:48:30	Eric Buhler, RCVMT
08:48:58	Sen. Steve Hinebauch
08:49:35	Melinda Leas, self
08:51:27	Vice Chair Jen Gross
08:52:14	Melinda Leas, self
08:52:48	Sen. Chris Friedel
08:53:14	Melinda Leas, self
08:53:18	Sen. Daniel Emrich
08:55:26	Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Montana Office Secretary of State
08:56:51	Sen. Susan Webber
08:57:23	Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Montana Office Secretary of State
08:57:47	Sen. Andrea Olsen
08:58:43	Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Montana Office Secretary of State
08:59:20	Vice Chair Jen Gross
08:59:41	Keegan Medrano, ACLUMT

Closing Statement:

09:00:51	Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 598.

HEARING ON HB 322 - Generally revise laws related to standing masters

Opening Statement:

09:03:07   Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 322, Generally revise laws related to standing masters.

Proponent Testimony:

09:04:15   Elizabeth Peterson, self

09:07:03   Jennifer Brick, self

09:11:37   Hannah Johnson, self

09:14:21   Matt Furlong, Montana Child Protection Alliance (MCPA)

09:16:09   Mike Roadarmel, self

09:19:36   Paul Johnson, self

09:22:08   Michelle Rebecca, self

09:25:21   Terry Schaplow, self

09:32:36   Michelle Friedrick, self

09:37:26   Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance (MCPA)

09:39:31   Jeffery Hamling, self

Opponent Testimony:

09:45:09   Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association

09:50:34   Judge Andrew Breuner, Montana 18th Judicial District Court

Informational Witness Testimony:

                  None

Questions from Committee:

10:02:50   Chair Keith Regier

10:03:16   Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association

10:06:19   Chair Keith Regier

10:06:26	Rep. Caleb Hinkle-R
10:06:38	Sen. Chris Friedel
10:07:05	Terry Schaplow, self
10:16:21	Vice Chair Jen Gross
10:16:55	Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association
10:19:08	Vice Chair Jen Gross
10:19:19	Rep. Caleb Hinkle-R
10:19:35	Sen. Susan Webber

Closing Statement:

10:19:53   Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, closed the hearing on HB 322.

HEARING ON HB 425 - Generally revising laws rel. to restitution payments under the Youth Court Act

Opening Statement:

10:21:13   Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D), HD 49, opened the hearing on HB 425, Generally revising laws rel. to restitution payments under the Youth Court Act.

Proponent Testimony:

10:23:10   Myshell Lyday, Avitium Partners

10:26:10   Nicole Gomez, Montana Women Vote

EXHIBIT(230323JUSa2)

EXHIBIT(230323JUSa3)

10:29:39   Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:34:50   Vice Chair Jen Gross

10:35:53   Myshell Lyday, Avitium Partners

10:38:45   Sen. Bob Brown

10:39:38   Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter-D

10:41:45   Myshell Lyday, Avitium Partners

10:45:14   Sen. Susan Webber

10:45:33   Nicole Gomez, Montana Women Vote

Closing Statement:

10:46:55   Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D), HD 49, closed the hearing on HB 425.

HEARING ON SB 509 - Eliminate annual license tax for attorneys

Opening Statement:

11:57:13   Vice Chair Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 509,
                    Eliminate annual license tax for attorneys.

Proponent Testimony:

11:57:21   Bruce Spencer, State Bar of Montana

                    EXHIBIT(230323JUSa4)

Opponent Testimony:

                    None

Informational Witness Testimony:

                    None

Questions from Committee:

12:02:24   Sen. Andrea Olsen

12:03:01   Bruce Spencer, Montana State Bar

12:03:38   Chair Keith Regier

12:04:10   Bruce Spencer, Montana State Bar

Closing Statement:

12:04:38   Vice Chair Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 509.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:05:37

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Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents:EXHIBIT(230323JUSaad)