

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Wendy McKamey-R, on March 24, 2023 at 3:14 PM, in 335

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)

**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 400 03/14/2023  
HB 510 03/22/2023  
HB 536 03/22/2023  
HB 540 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

HB 400  
HB 510  
HB 536

15:28:03 Sen. Bartel has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 536 - Revise laws related to write-in candidates**

**Opening Statement:**

15:16:33 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 536, Revise laws related to write-in candidates.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:20:27 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

15:21:38 Vera Pederson, President, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

15:22:25 Bradley Seaman, Missoula County and Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

15:24:22 Janel Tucek, Fergus County Election Administration, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders (MACR)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:28:20 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:31:58 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

15:32:51 Sen. Shelley Vance

15:35:14 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

15:35:42 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:36:02 Regina Plettenberg, MACR

**Closing Statement:**

15:37:03 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, closed the hearing on HB 536.

15:38:05 Chair Cuffe has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 510 - Revise certification timeline laws for city candidates**

**Opening Statement:**

15:38:33 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 510, Revise certification timeline laws for city candidates.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:39:26 Scott Cook, Office of Political Practices (MOPP)

[EXHIBIT\(230324STSa1\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:42:49 Sen. Shelley Vance

15:43:22 Scott Cook, MOPP

15:43:54 Sen. Shelley Vance

**Closing Statement:**

15:44:07 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, closed the hearing on HB 510.

**HEARING ON HB 400 - Require agency reports to legislature to be in writing**

**Opening Statement:**

15:45:36 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 400, Require agency reports to legislature to be in writing.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:48:45 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:51:20 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:51:59 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
15:52:24 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:53:49 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
15:54:26 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:54:31 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:54:56 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey left the meeting.  
15:55:09 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:56:02 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:56:34 Sen. Dan Bartel

**Closing Statement:**

15:57:36 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 400.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 400 - Require agency reports to legislature to be in writing**

16:07:28 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 400 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
08:46:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
16:07:28 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 510 - Revise certification timeline laws for city candidates**

16:07:50        **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 510 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
08:46:05        **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
16:07:50        **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Janet Ellis

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 536 - Revise laws related to write-in candidates**

16:08:06        **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 536 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
08:46:05        **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
16:08:06        **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Wendy McKamey  
16:09:18        **Recessed**  
16:09:55        Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 540 - Eliminate certain gender/sex requirements for party committee representatives**

**Opening Statement:**

16:41:48        Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 540, Eliminate certain gender/sex requirements for party committee representatives.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:45:04        Gina Reilly, self  
16:46:38        Becky Stockton, self  
16:47:54        Tom Stockton, self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:48:50        Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
16:50:27        Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

16:52:02 Sen. Dan Bartel  
16:52:35 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R  
16:53:49 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:54:45 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R  
16:56:31 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:57:25 Sen. Mark Noland  
16:59:04 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R  
16:59:51 Sen. Shelley Vance  
17:00:47 Joe Carroll  
17:00:56 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
17:01:44 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R  
17:01:56 Chair Mike Cuffe  
17:02:03 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
17:03:07 Sen. Dan Bartel  
17:04:48 Joe Carroll

**Closing Statement:**

17:05:45 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 540.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:17:05

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Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230324STSaad\)](#)