

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** Chair Chris Friedel-R, on March 29, 2023 at 2:48 PM, in 405

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Chris Friedel, Chair (R)  
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

**Staff Present:** Toni Henneman, Research Analyst  
Lorna Mason, 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:

SB 530 03/24/2023  
SB 545 03/27/2023  
SB 549 03/27/2023

Executive Action:

SB 528 DO PASS  
SB 529 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 675  
HB 703  
SB 545 TO TABLE  
SB 530 DO PASS  
SB 549 DO PASS  
SB 523 DO PASS AS AMENDED

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 528 - Revise zoning laws related to ADUs**

14:49:20 **Motion:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved that **SB 528 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

14:49:47 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

14:50:35 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

14:49:20 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 529 - Provide property tax exemption for wireless infrastructure**

14:51:37 **Motion:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved that **SB 529 DO PASS.**

14:51:46 **Motion:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved that **SB 529 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:53:19 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

14:53:38 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

14:53:40 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

14:55:04 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

14:51:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 5 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Friedel, Sen. Mandeville, Sen. Vermeire, Sen. Zolnikov, voting no.  
Sen. Zolnikov, By Proxy

14:56:24 **Motion:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved that **SB 529 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

14:56:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Mandeville, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 675 - Authorize consolidation of county and municipal water and/or sewer districts**

14:58:13 **Motion:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved that **HB 675 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:58:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:58:13 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Chris Friedel

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 703 - Revise housing laws related to emotional support animals**

14:59:23 **Motion:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved that **HB 703 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:59:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:59:23 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jeremy Trebas

**HEARING ON SB 545 - Revise local government building code laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:01:39 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 545, Revise local government building code laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:05:20 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings

[EXHIBIT\(230329LOSa1\)](#)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:08:45 Eric Copeland, Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:09:40 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:11:26 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R

15:12:26 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

15:13:35 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R

15:16:35 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:17:43 Eric Copeland, DOLI

15:18:33 Sen. Ellie Boldman joined the meeting.

15:18:57 Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

15:21:04 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

15:22:23 Eric Copeland, DOLI

15:24:50 Chair Chris Friedel

15:26:19 Steve Turkiewicz, self

**Closing Statement:**

15:26:39 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 545.

15:27:31 **Recessed**

15:34:44 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON SB 530 - Generally revise taxation of new, expanded, or improved industrial property**

**Opening Statement:**

15:36:05 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 530, Generally revise taxation of new, expanded, or improved industrial property.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:39:19 Aimee Grmoljez, Crowley and Fleck Law Firm

[EXHIBIT\(230329LOSa2\)](#)

15:44:35 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (COC)

15:45:42 Melissa Lewis, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:47:53 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

[EXHIBIT\(230329LOSa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230329LOSa4\)](#)

15:51:43 Shelby DeMars, Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

15:53:11 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:55:43 Dylon Cole, Department of Revenue (DOR)

15:56:07 Jill Gallagher, Department of Revenue (DOR)

15:56:16 Kory Hofland, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:56:48 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell  
16:02:21 Eric Bryson, MACo  
16:03:25 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
16:03:29 Sen. Greg Hertz-R  
16:03:32 Sen. Christopher Pope  
16:04:29 Sen. Greg Hertz-R  
16:06:53 Chair Chris Friedel  
16:08:00 Eric Bryson, MACo

**Closing Statement:**

16:09:44 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 530.

**HEARING ON SB 549 - Provide a 5 year prepaid property tax exemption during  
subdivision development**

**Opening Statement:**

16:11:17 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 549, Provide a 5 year prepaid property tax exemption during subdivision development.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:17:12 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)  
16:19:17 Kelly Rigg, Self  
16:21:01 Katie Ward, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:23:53 Bryce Kaatz, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
16:24:00 Brittany Mari, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:26:47 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
16:26:53 Bryce Kaatz, DOR  
16:29:21 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell  
16:29:25 Sen. Greg Hertz-R  
16:31:39 Bryce Kaatz, DOR  
16:36:19 Sen. Christopher Pope  
16:37:43 Sen. Greg Hertz-R  
16:38:43 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell  
16:39:14 Brittney Mari, DOR  
16:40:44 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
16:41:01 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:41:16 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 549.

16:50:35 **Recessed**

17:10:39 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 545 - Revise local government building code laws**

17:10:45 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 545 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:11:03 Sen. Christopher Pope

17:13:08 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

17:13:23 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:10:45 **Vote:** Motion failed 5 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Friedel, Sen. Trebas, Sen. Vermeire, Sen. Zolnikov, voting yes.  
Sen. Zolnikov, By Proxy

17:14:33 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 545 TO TABLE.**

17:14:33 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 530 - Generally revise taxation of new, expanded, or improved industrial property**

17:15:21 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 530 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:15:38 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:15:21 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Dunwell, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 549 - Provide a 5 year prepaid property tax exemption during subdivision development**

17:16:42 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 549 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:17:27 Sen. Ellie Boldman

17:18:13 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:16:42 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Dunwell, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 523 - Generally revise tax increment financing laws**

17:19:34 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 523 DO PASS.**

17:19:46 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 523 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:20:10 Toni Henneman

17:19:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.

17:21:09 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 523 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

17:21:32 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 523 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:21:45 Toni Henneman

17:21:32 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Pope, voting no.

17:23:14 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 523 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:23:45 Toni Henneman

17:23:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Pope, voting no.

17:24:47 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 523 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:25:18 Toni Henneman

17:27:11 Sen. Christopher Pope

17:27:59 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

17:29:33 Sen. Christopher Pope

17:24:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.

17:31:36 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **SB 523 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:31:56 Sen. Christopher Pope

17:33:25 Sen. Ellie Boldman

17:35:05 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:36:56 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

17:39:33 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

17:41:27 Chair Chris Friedel

17:31:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:53:59

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Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230329LOSaad\)](#)