

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Cuffe-R, on March 29, 2023 at 2:20 PM, in 335

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Mike Cuffe, Chair (R)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

**Staff Present:** Joe Carroll, Attorney  
Cy Walsh, 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 306 03/14/2023  
HB 335 03/14/2023  
HB 384 03/14/2023  
HB 712 03/14/2023  
HB 716 03/14/2023  
HB 754 03/14/2023  
SB 534 03/28/2023

Executive Action:

HB 298 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 329 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 190 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 540 TO TABLE  
HB 107 BE CONCURRED IN  
SB 534 DO PASS  
HB 306 BE CONCURRED IN

HB 335 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 712 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 716 TO TABLE  
HB 754 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED  
HB 384 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 63 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED

14:21:44 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

14:24:02 Sen. Noland has arrived

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 298 - Revise board of veterans affairs laws**

14:25:04 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 298 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:25:04 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 329 - Allow state employees to use paid sick leave for child related events**

14:26:56 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 329 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Manzella, Sen. Noland, voting no.

14:26:56 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Janet Ellis

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 190 - Provide for a state government performance and results act**

14:29:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 190 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:29:53 Vice Chair Denise Hayman joined the meeting.

14:30:05 Chair Mike Cuffe

14:31:09 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

14:31:54 Sen. Shelley Vance

14:32:51 Sen. Mark Noland

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Hayman, voting no.

14:29:48 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Wendy McKamey

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

14:37:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 540 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:38:22 Joe Carroll

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:39:46 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 540 BE AMENDED.**

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:40:42 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 540 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:40:57 Sen. Dan Bartel

14:41:31 Sen. Theresa Manzella

14:42:27 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

14:43:00 Sen. Mark Noland

14:43:12 Chair Mike Cuffe

14:43:48 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. McKamey, Sen. Vance, voting yes.

14:46:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 540 TO TABLE.**

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 107 - Generally revise the duties of SERC**

14:47:21 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 107 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:48:01 Joe Carroll

14:48:31 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

14:52:03 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 107 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:52:21 Chair Mike Cuffe

14:52:26 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
14:53:19 Sen. Shelley Vance left the meeting.  
14:53:26 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick left the meeting.  
14:53:35 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
14:54:09 Joe Carroll  
14:54:39 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
14:55:30 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey left the meeting.  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion tied 5 - 5 roll call vote  
14:56:43 **Motion:** Chair Mike Cuffe moved that **HB 107 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, voting no.  
14:56:43 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Fox  
14:58:06 **Recessed**  
15:09:08 **Reconvened**  
15:10:41 Vice Chair McKamey has arrived

**HEARING ON SB 534 - Constitutional amendment on redistricting**

**Opening Statement:**

15:10:08 Sen. Tom McGillvray (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 534, Constitutional amendment on redistricting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:15:16 Dan Stusek, self  
15:18:32 Cameo Flood, self  
15:20:25 Michael McKenrick, self  
15:21:18 Tim Adams, self  
[EXHIBIT\(230329STSa1\)](#)  
15:24:48 Tim McKenrick, self  
15:25:38 Becky Stockton, self

15:26:24 Elizabeth Hale, self

15:27:58 Jason Stephenson, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:29:27 Norane Appling-Freistadt, self

15:32:08 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters (LWV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:35:03 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:35:27 Dan Stusek, self

15:39:46 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:40:01 Sen. Mark Noland

15:40:18 Tim Adams, self

15:41:45 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:42:11 Tim Adams, self

15:44:52 Sen. Mark Noland

15:45:18 Sen. Tom McGillvray-R

15:45:45 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:45:55 Sen. Tom McGillvray-R

15:46:08 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:46:15 Sen. Tom McGillvray-R

15:46:47 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:47:18 Dan Stusek, self

**Closing Statement:**

15:49:24 Sen. Tom McGillvray (R), SD 23, closed the hearing on SB 534.

**HEARING ON HB 306 - Require candidates for office be registered to vote**

**Opening Statement:**

15:53:35 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 306, Require candidates for office be registered to vote.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:54:30 Becky Stockton, self

15:54:54 Tim McKenrick, self

15:55:10 Michael McKenrick, self

15:55:31 Elizabeth Hale, self

15:56:13 Kathy Butterfield

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:57:01 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters (LWV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:58:59 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:59:14 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R

16:00:07 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:00:37 Becky Stockton, self

16:01:22 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:01:35 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R

16:02:37 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:03:19 Robyn Morrison, LWV

16:05:13 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:05:34 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:06:04 Sen. Dan Bartel left the meeting.

16:06:15 Robyn Morrison, LWV

**Closing Statement:**

16:06:59 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 306.

**HEARING ON HB 335 - Generally revise election laws related to absentee ballot list procedures**

**Opening Statement:**

16:08:14 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 335, Generally revise election laws related to absentee ballot list procedures.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:10:36 Sen. Dan Bartel joined the meeting.

16:10:40 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of State's Office

16:11:10 Steve Turkiewicz, Secure Democracy USA (SDUSA)

16:12:06 Elizabeth Hale, self

16:13:09 Kathy Butterfield, self

16:13:27 Sen. Shelley Vance joined the meeting.

16:14:00 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:14:48 Becky Stockton, self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:18:08 Sen. Dan Bartel

16:18:33 Rep. David Bedey-R

16:19:09 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:19:35 Steve Turkiewicz, SDUSA

16:19:58 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
16:20:19 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
16:21:53 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
16:22:23 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
16:23:40 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
16:24:09 Rep. David Bedey-R  
16:26:22 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:27:38 Rep. David Bedey-R  
16:28:49 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
16:30:50 Sen. Mark Noland  
16:31:27 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
16:32:47 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:33:03 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
16:33:14 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
16:33:40 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office

**Closing Statement:**

16:34:14 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 335.

**HEARING ON HB 712 - Prohibit illegal aliens from voting in Montana elections**

**Opening Statement:**

16:35:34 Rep. Zack Wirth (R), HD 80, opened the hearing on HB 712, Prohibit illegal aliens from voting in Montana elections.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230329STSa2\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:39:37 Becky Stockton, self  
16:40:07 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of State's Office  
16:40:41 Garrett Bacon, self  
16:42:00 Kathy Butterfield, self  
16:42:50 Jack Tomczak, Americans for Citizen Voting (ACV)

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:46:27 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU MT)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:50:05 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
16:50:35 Rep. Zack Wirth-R  
16:50:59 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
16:51:06 Keegan Medrano, ACLU MT  
16:52:38 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:53:16 Rep. Zack Wirth-R  
16:53:45 Sen. Shelley Vance  
16:55:10 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:55:30 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
16:56:31 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:58:00 Rep. Zack Wirth-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:58:39 Rep. Zack Wirth (R), HD 80, closed the hearing on HB 712.

**HEARING ON HB 716 - Revise laws related to deceptive election practices**

**Opening Statement:**

17:00:36 Rep. Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB 716, Revise laws related to deceptive election practices.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230329STSa3\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

17:02:35 Loy Bellicheck, self

17:05:20 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of State's Office

17:05:45 Becky Stockton, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:06:24 Scott Cook, Commissioner of Political Practices' Office

[EXHIBIT\(230329STSa4\)](#)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:07:29 Sen. Janet Ellis

17:08:06 Rep. Bob Phalen-R

17:09:28 Sen. Mark Noland

17:09:51 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office

17:10:46 Sen. Theresa Manzella

17:11:48 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office

**Closing Statement:**

17:13:18 Rep. Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, closed the hearing on HB 716.

**HEARING ON HB 754 - Allowing county election officials access to certain information**

**Opening Statement:**

17:14:58 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 754, Allowing county election officials access to certain information.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:18:10 Dana Corson, Director of Elections, Secretary of State's Office

**Questions from Committee:**

17:18:36 Sen. Shelley Vance  
17:19:12 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R  
17:20:27 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
17:20:36 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R  
17:21:48 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
17:22:23 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R  
17:24:38 Sen. Dan Bartel  
17:24:59 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R  
17:25:50 Sen. Mike Fox  
17:26:01 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R  
17:26:58 Chair Mike Cuffe  
17:29:40 Sen. Dan Bartel  
17:29:51 Joe Carroll  
17:30:51 Sen. Mark Noland  
17:31:07 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R

17:31:24 Chair Mike Cuffe  
17:31:39 Sen. Mark Noland  
17:31:44 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard-R  
17:32:19 Chair Mike Cuffe  
17:32:28 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
17:33:44 Sen. Janet Ellis  
17:35:12 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
17:39:27 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
17:39:31 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office  
17:39:53 Sen. Dan Bartel  
17:39:58 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office

**Closing Statement:**

17:40:31 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 754.

**HEARING ON HB 384 - Allow hard copy campaign finance reports in certain circumstances**

**Opening Statement:**

17:42:02 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 384, Allow hard copy campaign finance reports in certain circumstances.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:46:22 Scott Cook, Commissioner of Political Practices' Office (COPP)

[EXHIBIT\(230329STSa5\)](#)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:47:19 Chair Mike Cuffe  
17:47:44 Scott Cook, COPP  
17:50:16 Chair Mike Cuffe  
17:50:26 Scott Cook, COPP  
17:51:32 Sen. Shelley Vance  
17:51:54 Scott Cook, COPP  
17:55:47 Sen. Janet Ellis  
17:56:40 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R  
17:58:44 Chair Mike Cuffe  
17:58:52 Scott Cook, COPP

**Closing Statement:**

18:00:12 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 384.  
  
18:03:52 **Recessed**  
  
18:26:20 **Reconvened**  
  
18:26:21 Vice Chair Hayman has left

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 534 - Constitutional amendment on redistricting**

18:26:29 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 534 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

18:26:38 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.  
18:26:40 Sen. Janet Ellis  
18:28:41 Sen. Dan Bartel  
18:29:37 Chair Mike Cuffe  
18:29:43 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

18:29:46 Sen. Dan Bartel  
18:30:42 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
18:31:01 Sen. Dan Bartel  
18:31:14 Chair Mike Cuffe  
18:31:23 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, voting no.  
Sen. Hayman, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 306 - Require candidates for office be registered to vote**

18:32:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 306 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

18:33:21 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
18:34:01 Chair Mike Cuffe  
18:34:16 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Hayman, voting no.  
Sen. Hayman, By Proxy  
18:32:33 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 335 - Generally revise election laws related to absentee ballot list procedures**

18:35:53 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 335 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Hayman, voting no.  
Sen. Hayman, By Proxy  
18:35:53 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 712 - Prohibit illegal aliens from voting in Montana elections**

18:38:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 712 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

18:38:30 Sen. Shelley Vance

[EXHIBIT\(230329STSa6\)](#)

18:39:16 Joe Carroll  
18:39:55 Sen. Janet Ellis  
18:40:18 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, Sen. McKamey, voting no. Sen. Hayman, By Proxy  
18:38:14 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Shelley Vance

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 716 - Revise laws related to deceptive election practices**

18:41:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 716 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

18:41:59 Sen. Janet Ellis  
18:42:54 Chair Mike Cuffe  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion tied 5 - 5 roll call vote  
18:44:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 716 TO TABLE.**  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 754 - Allowing county election officials access to certain information**

18:45:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 754 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

18:45:52 Joe Carroll  
18:47:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 754 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

18:47:42 Joe Carroll  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Hayman, voting no. Sen. Hayman, By Proxy  
18:48:04 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 754 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

18:48:19 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
18:49:05 Chair Mike Cuffe  
18:49:21 Sen. Shelley Vance  
18:51:42 Sen. Janet Ellis  
18:52:17 Chair Mike Cuffe  
18:52:22 Sen. Mark Noland  
18:53:42 Chair Mike Cuffe  
18:53:47 Sen. Dan Bartel  
18:54:53 Chair Mike Cuffe  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, Sen. McKamey, voting no. Sen. Hayman, By Proxy  
18:48:04 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Theresa Manzella

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 384 - Allow hard copy campaign finance reports in certain circumstances**

18:56:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 384 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, voting no. Sen. Hayman, By Proxy  
18:56:14 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 63 - Generally revise liability laws related to armed forces and national guard**

18:59:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 63 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
18:59:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 63 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

18:59:35 Joe Carroll  
19:00:54 Sen. Mark Noland  
19:01:09 Sen. Theresa Manzella

19:01:30 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

19:02:03 Sen. Mark Noland

19:02:13 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

19:02:23 Sen. Theresa Manzella

19:02:37 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Hayman, voting no.  
Sen. Hayman, By Proxy

19:03:37 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 63 BE CONCURRED  
IN AS AMENDED.**

10:36:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, voting  
no.  
Sen. Hayman, By Proxy

19:03:37 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 19:05:41

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

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