

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on April 04, 2023 at 3:17 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. Brad Molnar (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

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:

Executive Action:

HJ 6
HB 19
HB 729

15:19:02 **Committee Discussion:** PSC Railroad Safety Presentation

15:19:16 James (Jim) Brown, Public Service Commissions (PSC)

15:21:19 [EXHIBIT\(230404ENSa1\)](#)

15:21:30 Dan Sherwood, Public Service Commission (PSC)

15:22:05 [EXHIBIT\(230404ENSa2\)](#)

15:33:55 Chair Walt Sales

15:34:06 James (Jim) Brown, PSC

15:34:17 Randy Pinocci, Public Service Commission (PSC)

15:36:39 James (Jim) Brown, PSC

15:37:22 Connie Roseberry, Union Pacific (UP)

15:37:49 Matt Jones, BNSF Railway (BNSF)

15:54:14 Jon Bennion, The Washington Companies (WC) Montana Rail Link (MRL)

15:59:34 Connie Roseberry, Union Pacific (UP)

16:01:32 Sen. Denise Hayman

16:05:40 Matt Jones, BNSF

16:08:27 Sen. Christopher Pope

16:15:21 James (Jim) Brown, PSC

16:16:10 Sen. Brad Molnar

16:17:08 Matt Jones, BNSF

16:19:16 Chair Walt Sales

16:19:41 James (Jim) Brown, PSC

16:19:55 Chair Walt Sales

15:23:44 Sen. Hayman has arrived

15:34:03 Sen. Regier has left

16:20:03 Sen. Regier has arrived

16:20:22 **Committee Discussion:** Sen. Molnar Energy Conservation Presentation

16:20:24 Sen. Brad Molnar

16:21:43 [EXHIBIT\(230404ENSa3\)](#)

16:22:45 [EXHIBIT\(230404ENSa4\)](#)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 6 - Interim study of electric power reserves

16:36:49 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jason Small moved that **HJ 6 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:37:09 Sen. Christopher Pope

16:38:29 Sen. Brad Molnar

16:40:04 Sen. Keith Regier

16:40:30 Sen. Brad Molnar

16:41:11 Vice Chair Jason Small

16:42:01 Sen. Mike Cuffe

16:43:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Molnar, voting no.

16:36:49 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Keith Regier

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 19 - Revising laws related to Indian affairs and economic development

16:44:15 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jason Small moved that **HB 19 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

Discussion:

16:45:10 Vice Chair Jason Small

16:45:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:45:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jason Small moved that **HB 19 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:46:22 Vice Chair Jason Small
16:47:23 Sen. Keith Regier
16:47:48 Vice Chair Jason Small
16:49:02 Sen. Keith Regier
16:49:17 Jason Mohr
16:50:01 Sen. Keith Regier
16:50:04 Chair Walt Sales
16:50:11 Sen. Christopher Pope
16:50:45 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:51:00 Vice Chair Jason Small
16:51:06 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:51:13 Chair Walt Sales
16:51:20 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel
16:51:30 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:51:31 Sen. Janet Ellis
16:51:44 Vice Chair Jason Small
16:51:47 Chair Walt Sales
16:52:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
16:52:44 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jason Small moved that **HB 19 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
16:53:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
16:52:44 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 729 - Providing for advanced conductor cost-effectiveness criteria

16:53:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jason Small moved that **HB 729 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:53:47 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:54:20 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:54:44 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel

16:55:10 Sen. Christopher Pope
16:56:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Tempel, voting no.
16:53:33 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Walt Sales
16:57:06 **Committee Discussion:** End of Committee Business
16:56:56 Vice Chair Jason Small
16:57:06 Sen. Brad Molnar
16:57:36 Chair Walt Sales
16:57:46 Jack Racicot
16:57:48 Chair Walt Sales

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:58:08

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230404ENSaad\)](#)