

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

Call to Order: Chair Mike Cuffe-R, on April 05, 2023 at 3:12 PM, in 335

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Mike Cuffe, Chair (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

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 135 03/14/2023
HB 348 03/14/2023
HB 543 03/31/2023
HB 580 03/31/2023
HB 660 03/14/2023
HB 693 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

HB 660
HB 348
HB 135
HB 693

HEARING ON HB 348 - Revise laws related to state government employee directories

Opening Statement:

15:13:30 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 348, Revise laws related to state government employee directories.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:15:23 Sen. Dan Bartel

Closing Statement:

15:15:53 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 348.

15:16:23 Sen. Ellis has arrived

15:18:29 **Recessed**

HEARING ON HB 135 - Revise administrative provisions of TRS

Opening Statement:

15:18:18 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 135, Revise administrative provisions of TRS.

Proponent Testimony:

15:19:33 Shawn Graham, Teachers Retirement System (TRS)

[EXHIBIT\(230405STSa1\)](#)

15:29:33 Eric Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:29:57 Dennis Parman, on behalf of the Coalition of Advocated for Montana Public Schools

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:31:36 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 135.

HEARING ON HB 543 - Revise laws for ballot wording for bonds and levies

Opening Statement:

15:32:31 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 543, Revise laws for ballot wording for bonds and levies.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:16:49 Committee Discussion on schedule issues.

15:36:09 Sen. Mark Noland

15:36:30 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R
15:36:59 Sen. Dan Bartel left the meeting.
15:37:43 Sen. Janet Ellis
15:38:35 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R
15:39:47 Chair Mike Cuffe
15:40:54 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

Closing Statement:

15:41:53 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 543.

15:43:26 Sen. Bartel has arrived

HEARING ON HB 660 - Revise notification requirements regarding vacancies on appointed entities

Opening Statement:

15:43:18 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 660, Revise notification requirements regarding vacancies on appointed entities.

Proponent Testimony:

15:44:34 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:47:03 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 660.

HEARING ON HB 693 - Clarify disclosure of public information that may be involved in litigation

Opening Statement:

15:48:23 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 693, Clarify disclosure of public information that may be involved in litigation.

Proponent Testimony:

15:53:29 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

15:54:51 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasters Association (MBA)

Opponent Testimony:

15:55:45 Chris Dorrington, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15:58:27 Angie Colamaria, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:01:15 Sen. Mark Noland

16:02:01 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

16:04:55 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:10:55 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

16:12:10 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:13:05 Director Misty Giles, Department of Administration (DOA)

16:14:34 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:19:31 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

16:20:36 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:21:35 Angie Colamaria, DEQ

Closing Statement:

16:23:54 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 693.

HEARING ON HB 580 - Impose reporting requirements for state agencies and departments

Opening Statement:

16:25:45 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 580, Impose reporting requirements for state agencies and departments.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:30:06 Director Misty Giles, Department of Administration (DOA)

16:30:21 Rebecca Harbage, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

16:30:50 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:34:30 Director Misty Giles, DOA

16:36:21 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:36:28 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:36:42 Director Misty Giles, DOA

16:37:15 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:37:30 Director Misty Giles, DOA

16:37:50 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:38:02 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

16:38:26 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:38:35 Joe Carroll

16:38:43 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

16:38:55 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:39:20 Don Harris, Chief Legal Council, Department of Administration (DOA)

16:40:04 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:40:44 Don Harris, (DOA)

Closing Statement:

16:41:12 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 580.

16:42:08 **Recessed**

16:56:30 **Reconvened**

16:56:43 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 660 - Revise notification requirements regarding vacancies on appointed entities

16:58:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 660 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:58:33 Chair Mike Cuffe

11:05:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:58:26 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 348 - Revise laws related to state government employee directories

16:59:49 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 348 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:57:32 Committee Discussion

17:00:17 Chair Mike Cuffe

17:00:45 Joe Carroll

17:01:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 348 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:00:56 Joe Carroll

17:01:30 Sen. Janet Ellis
17:02:06 Joe Carroll
17:02:12 Chair Mike Cuffe
17:02:22 Sen. Mark Noland
17:02:53 Chair Mike Cuffe
17:03:57 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick
17:05:11 Chair Mike Cuffe
17:05:39 Sen. Janet Ellis
17:06:12 Chair Mike Cuffe
17:06:56 Sen. Dan Bartel
17:07:28 Chair Mike Cuffe
11:05:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, voting no.
Sen. Hayman, By Proxy
17:08:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 348 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
11:05:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, voting no.
17:08:23 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Dan Bartel

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 135 - Revise administrative provisions of TRS

17:09:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 135 BE CONCURRED IN.**
11:05:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
17:09:58 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Wendy McKamey

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 693 - Clarify disclosure of public information that may be involved in litigation

17:12:05 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 693 BE CONCURRED IN.**
11:05:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
17:12:05 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:18:44

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230405STSaad\)](#)