

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Cuffe-R, on April 12, 2023 at 3:15 PM, in 335

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Mike Cuffe, Chair (R)  
Sen. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (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 845 04/07/2023

HB 855 04/07/2023

HB 947 04/07/2023

Executive Action:

HB 360

HB 402 TO TAKE FROM THE  
TABLE

HB 845

HB 855

HB 947

15:18:52 Sen. Noland has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 845 - Provide electronic Montana code annotated to state employees at cost**

**Opening Statement:**

15:17:16 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, opened the hearing on HB 845, Provide electronic Montana code annotated to state employees at cost.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230412STSa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:20:08 James Reavis, Office of the Public Defender (OPD)

15:23:23 Sen. Janet Ellis joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:24:33 Sen. Mark Noland

15:24:49 Rep. Jonathan Karlen-D

15:25:42 Sen. Mark Noland

15:27:35 James Reavis, OPD

15:28:26 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

15:28:48 Rep. Jonathan Karlen-D

15:29:42 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:32:02 Rep. Jonathan Karlen-D  
15:32:11 Sen. Shelley Vance  
15:32:49 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
15:33:05 Rep. Jonathan Karlen-D  
15:33:23 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

**Closing Statement:**

15:33:55 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, closed the hearing on HB 845.

**HEARING ON HB 855 - Provide for plaque or tribute commemorating Chuck Johnson**

**Opening Statement:**

15:34:57 Rep. Laura Smith (D), HD 79, opened the hearing on HB 855, Provide for plaque or tribute commemorating Chuck Johnson.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:38:08 Molly Kruckenbergrg, Montana Historical Society

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:39:46 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
15:40:03 Rep. Laura Smith-D  
15:40:17 Molly Kruckenbergrg, MHS  
15:40:57 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
15:41:24 Rep. Laura Smith-D  
15:41:41 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:41:46 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:41:56 Rep. Laura Smith-D  
15:42:10 Molly Kruckenberg, MHS  
15:42:28 Chair Mike Cuffe

**Closing Statement:**

15:45:32 Rep. Laura Smith (D), HD 79, closed the hearing on HB 855.

**HEARING ON HB 947 - Revise election laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:46:50 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 947, Revise election laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:49:15 Scott Cook, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:49:51 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
15:50:46 Scott Cook, COPP  
15:51:35 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
15:52:28 Scott Cook, COPP  
15:52:44 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:54:14 Scott Cook, COPP  
15:55:14 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:57:14 Scott Cook, COPP  
15:57:42 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:57:57 Rep. George Nikolakakos-R  
15:59:20 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:59:26 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:00:12 Rep. George Nikolakakos-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:01:00 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 947.  
  
16:07:55 **Recessed**  
  
16:20:20 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 360 - Revise election of county commissioners**

16:20:46 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 360 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

16:20:57 Joe Carroll  
16:21:11 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:21:17 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:22:06 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:23:17 Sen. Mark Noland  
16:23:50 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:24:18 Chair Mike Cuffe  
16:24:46 Sen. Mark Noland  
16:25:52 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
16:25:58 Sen. Mark Noland  
16:26:18 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
16:26:27 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:20:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, voting no.

16:20:46 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 402 - Revise elector registration laws**

16:28:44 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 402 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

16:29:00 Joe Carroll

16:30:34 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:30:54 Joe Carroll

16:31:13 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:31:17 Joe Carroll

16:31:23 **Motion:** Sen. Theresa Manzella moved that **HB 402 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:31:52 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:31:54 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:33:20 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:35:27 Sen. Mark Noland

16:36:20 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:37:52 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

16:39:08 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:39:31 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:40:44 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:41:03 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:41:13 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:41:52 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:42:01 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:42:21 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

17:12:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 402 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

17:12:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Manzella, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 845 - Provide electronic Montana code annotated to state employees at cost**

16:42:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 845 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

16:42:42 Joe Carroll

16:43:08 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:44:28 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:44:35 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:44:38 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:44:39 Sen. Mike Fox

16:44:45 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:42:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:42:26 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Janet Ellis

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 855 - Provide for plaque or tribute commemorating Chuck Johnson**

16:44:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 855 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

16:45:09 Joe Carroll

16:45:27 Sen. Mark Noland

16:46:35 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:46:40 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:48:06 Chair Mike Cuffe

16:49:18 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:49:28 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:50:12 Joe Carroll

16:50:58 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:51:06 Joe Carroll

16:51:43 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:52:01 Joe Carroll

16:52:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 855 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:52:53 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:52:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:55:18 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 855 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

16:55:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:55:18 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

16:56:33 Sen. Manzella has left

16:56:40 Chair Cuffe has left

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 947 - Revise election laws**

16:56:52 **Motion:** Vice Chair Denise Hayman moved that **HB 947 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

16:57:00 Joe Carroll

16:57:38 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

16:57:39 Sen. Theresa Manzella joined the meeting.

16:58:44 Sen. Mark Noland

16:56:52 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, voting no.

16:56:52 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

16:57:21 Sen. Vance has left

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:11:58

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Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230412STSaad\)](#)