

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN MIKE COONEY**, on January 6, 2005 at 5:00 P.M., in Room 317 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Mike Cooney, Chairman (D)
Sen. Keith Bales (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Greg Lind (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Dan Weinberg (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jon Tester (D)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted:
Executive Action:

CHAIRMAN MIKE COONEY called the organizational meeting to order. The committee discussed items regarding committee proceedings and rules of procedure.

EXHIBIT(fcs04a01)

Discussion was held about proxy voting, and the committee decided that proxies would be filled out properly indicating voting preference and the person voting the proxy would record the votes made on the proxy form and give it to the secretary.

Motion/Vote: Motion TO ADOPT PROXY VOTING WITH THE PROXY VOTE RECORDED ON THE FORM AND LEFT WITH THE SECRETARY carried unanimously.

Discussion was held concerning scheduling hearings for the following week.

SEN. JOHN COBB raised the issue that since the House reappointed members of the **Human Services Subcommittee** that there were now four House members and three Senate members. He advised that it was hard to get a vote. **CHAIRMAN COONEY** indicated he was unaware of the Joint Rule until the night before. He stated he spoke with **Clayton Schenck, Legislative Fiscal Division**, and **Greg Petesch, Legislative Counsel**, and was told his vote would be needed to break tie votes. **SEN. COBB** advised in addition **CHAIRMAN COONEY'S** vote would be needed for a committee bill which takes a 3/4 vote. **CHAIRMAN COONEY** said he would check on that and he thought the subcommittees didn't operate under that rule.

SEN. JOHN ESP suggested to new Senators that after public testimony that any questions be directed to a lobbyist or other committee member to avoid embarrassing constituents. **CHAIRMAN COONEY** indicated also that committee members would have time to participate in discussion and that testimony by legislators should be limited.

SEN. GREG BARKUS noted it would be helpful to staff and subcommittees if requests for 4th tier level go through chairs of subcommittees to avoid duplication of requests.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:30 P.M.

SEN. MIKE COONEY, Chairman

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

MC/PG

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([fcs04aad0.PDF](#))