

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SQUIRES**, on March 2, 2005 at 3:15 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Carolyn Squires, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Jim Shockley (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Dave Bohyer, Legislative Branch
Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 27, 2/28/2005; HB 29, 2/28/2005;
HB 53, 2/28/2005; HB 21, 2/28/2005
Executive Action: HB 21; HB 53; HB 27; HB 29

HEARING ON HB 27

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. MARK NOENNIG (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on **HB 27**, Revise timing of financial reviews by historical society.

Proponents' Testimony:

Arnie Olsen, Director of the Montana Historical Society, distributed written testimony in favor of HB 27. He stated that HB 27 "loosens the auditing requirements for the Moss Mansion in Kalispell from quarterly to a biennial review". He said the cost of sending two or three staff members to Billings for several days four times per year is prohibitive given recent budgets. He stated that state funds are not provided to operate or maintain the Moss Mansion. He said that HB 27 is supported by the leadership of the Moss Mansion Preservation Organization. He presented a letter (see exhibit 2) from the Moss Mansion thanking him for consideration of the bill, and its amendments. He urged the Committee to concur on this bill.

[EXHIBIT \(sts46a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(sts46a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. MARK NOENNIG closed by asking the Committee to concur on HB 27. He said **SEN. KIM GILLAN** will carry the bill.

HEARING ON HB 29

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. GEORGE GOLIE (D), HD 20, opened the hearing on **HB 29**, Revise definition of "short-term worker" for legislative purposes.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. GOLIE closed. He said this is a good bill, and urged the Committee to concur on HB 29. **SEN. COCCHIARELLA** will carry the bill.

The tape didn't start recording until this time frame.

HEARING ON HB 53

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5.5 - 18.}

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. HAL JACOBSON (D), HD 82, opened the hearing on **HB 53**, Conform Board of Horseracing laws to GAAP. He said this bill deals with the compliance of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as conducted in the state of Montana. He stated that the Board of Horseracing has been depositing their monies into an agency account. He said this bill structures the language that will deposit the monies into the State Board of Horseracing Agency account, then it is placed into GAAP, a special revenue account.

Proponents' Testimony:

John Northy, Legal Counsel for the Legislative Audit Division, informed the Committee that **REP. JACOBSON** gave a good explanation of the bill. He said current law requires the State Accounting System be in accordance with GAP. He stated that at this time the Board of Horseracing is not in compliance, and that is what this bill does. He urged the Committee to concur on HB 82.

Sam Murfitt, Executive Secretary of the Board of Horseracing, stated his support for HB 53 and urged the Committee to concur on HB 53.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. LEWIS asked **Mr. Northy** if this bill needs an immediate effective date to come into compliance. **Mr. Northy** said it hasn't been a major problem, and it doesn't make any difference. He said the bill just brings the Board of Horseracing into compliance. He stated it is a technical audit issue. **CHAIRWOMAN SQUIRES** asked if October was okay with him. **Mr. Northy** responded yes.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. JACOBSON closed. He said that the question from **SEN. LEWIS** regarding an effective date wasn't brought up during the 2001 Special Session. He doesn't have a problem with the October date that was suggested by **CHAIRWOMAN SQUIRES**. **SEN. SHOCKLEY** will carry the bill.

HEARING ON HB 21

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. DAVE GALLIK (D), HD 79, opened the hearing on **HB 21**, Bond validating act. **REP. GALLIK** said this bill validates the bonds that have been enacted in the past year by government agencies.

Proponents' Testimony:

Steve Bender, Department of Administration, said that **HB 21** just reiterates that "we stand behind the bonds we issue". He informed the Committee that this bill is brought before the legislature every two years. It basically validates any governmental entity that has issued a bond since the last legislative session. He said this is a routine procedure.

Joe Mazurek, representing D.A. Davidson & Co. Helena (stockbroker firm), stated the firm's support of this bill, because they purchase the bonds, then make sure the bonds are marketable.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. GALLIK closed. He thanked the Committee for a good hearing and asked them to concur on HB 21. SEN. COONEY will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 21

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 15 - 16}

Motion/Vote: SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that HB 21 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 53

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16 - 17}

Motion/Vote: SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved HB 53. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 27

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18 - 19}

Motion/Vote: SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that HB 27 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 29

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20 - 21}

Motion/Vote: SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that HB 29 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:40 P.M.

SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

CS/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([sts46aad0.PDF](#))