

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on March 4, 2005  
at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Duane Grimes (R)  
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)  
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)  
Sen. Frank Smith (D)  
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)  
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)  
Sen. Bill Tash (R)  
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jon Tester (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Annie Glover, Committee Secretary  
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch  
Audio Technician

**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 156, 3/1/2005; HB 188, 3/1/2005;  
HB 168, 3/1/2005; HB 300, 3/1/2005  
Executive Action: HB 168, HB 300

00:00:00

**HEARING ON HB 156**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**REP. TERESA HENRY (D), HD 96**, opened the hearing on **HB 156**,  
Revise disability insurance for reciprocity.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:58           **Ms. Alicia Pichette, State Auditor's Office**

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a01)

00:09:19           **Ms. Pat Wise, Montana Nurse's Association**

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a02)

00:09:49           **Ms. Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:11:43           **Ms. Angela Huschka, New West Health Services**

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a03)

00:14:16           **Mr. Frank Cote, America's Health Insurance Plans**

**Informational Testimony:**

00:16:42

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**Mr. John Holbrook, Compliance Specialist, State Auditor's Office**

00:56:45

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:00:36

**HEARING ON HB 188**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**REP. BOB BERGREN (D), HD 33**, opened the hearing on **HB 188**,  
Generally revise insurance laws.

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a04)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:02:48           **Ms. Alicia Pichette, State Auditor's Office**

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a05)

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a06)

01:13:08           **Mr. Peter Funk, Reinsurance Association of America**

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a07)

01:16:57           **Ms. Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana**

**EXHIBIT** (bus48a08)

01:19:09           **Mr. Stuart Doggett, Montana Land Title Association**

01:21:23           **Ms. Mona Jamison, Montana Life and Health  
Insurance Guaranty Association**

01:22:31           **Mr. Don Allen, Montana Association of Insurance  
and Financial Advisors**

01:24:40           **Ms. Angela Huschka, New West Health Services**

01:24:58           **Ms. Riley Johnson, Enterprise Rent-a-Car**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

01:25:40

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:42:45

**Closing by Sponsor:**

**SEN. ROUSH** will carry HB 188 on the Senate Floor.

01:43:57           Break.

02:01:12           Resume.

02:01:19

**HEARING ON HB 168**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**REP. ARLENE BECKER (D), HD 52,** opened the hearing on **HB 168,**  
Revise laws governing insurance guaranty association.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:03:28           **Ms. Alicia Pichette, State Auditor's Office**

**EXHIBIT**(bus48a09)

02:06:13           **Mr. Dwight Easton, Farmers Insurance**

02:07:28           **Mr. Peter Funk, American Insurance Association**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

02:08:03

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:08:09

**Closing by Sponsor:**

**SEN. ROUSH** will carry HB 168 on the Senate Floor.

02:09:08

**HEARING ON HB 300**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**REP. DAVE GALLIK (D)**, HD 79, opened the hearing on **HB 300**, Continuing education for insurance adjusters.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:10:46           **Mr. John Bandy, Insurance Adjuster**

**EXHIBIT**(bus48a10)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:**

02:15:20           **Ms. Alicia Pichette, State Auditor's Office**

02:15:53

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:29:58

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:32:13

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 168

Motion/Vote: SEN. ROUSH moved that HB 168 BE CONCURRED IN.  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

02:32:55

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 300

Motion: SEN. SQUIRES moved that HB 300 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

Vote: Motion carried 6-4 by voice vote with SEN. BALYEAT, SEN. GRIMES, SEN. LEWIS, and SEN. TASH voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:00 A.M.

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SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

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ANNIE GLOVER, Secretary

VC/ag

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([bus48aad0.PDF](#))**