

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on April 1, 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. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)

Members Absent: None.

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

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 772, 3/29/2005; HB 140,
3/29/2005; HB 687, 3/29/2005
Executive Action: HB 772

00:00:00

HEARING ON HB 772

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. TOM FACEY (D), HD 95, opened the hearing on HB 772, Pay travel expenses for catastrophically injured workers.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:18 Mr. Jerry Driscoll, Montana AFL-CIO
00:04:56 Mr. Bob Worthington, Montana Municipal Insurance
Authority
00:05:37 Mr. Pat Clinch, Montana State Council of
Professional Firefighters, also on behalf of Mr.
Don Judge, Teamsters
00:06:23 Mr. Jed Fitch, Montana Trial Lawyers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:07:06 Mr. Jerry Keck, Department of Labor and Industry
00:07:25 Ms. Nancy Butler, Montana State Fund

00:08:18

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:13:36

Closing by Sponsor:

00:15:14

HEARING ON HB 140

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JOHN PARKER (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 140, Revise laws on consumer credit counseling.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:18:07 Ms. Deb Kottel, Consumer Credit Counseling
Services of Montana

EXHIBIT (bus69a01)

00:26:01 Mr. Tom Jacobson, Executive Director, Consumer
Credit Counseling Services of Montana

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a03\)](#)

00:34:16 Mr. Al Ward, AARP

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a04\)](#)

00:36:36 Mr. Jed Fitch, Montana Trial Lawyers Association

00:37:57 Mr. Tom Boland, Attorney

00:41:48 Mr. J.D. Lynch, American Financial Institute

00:43:18 Ms. Mona Jamison, Wells Fargo

00:44:57 Ms. Pam Bucy, Assistant Attorney General

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a05\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

00:46:26

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a06\)](#)

01:14:21

Closing by Sponsor:

01:17:43 Break.

01:24:57 Resume.

01:25:16

HEARING ON HB 687

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. SCOTT MENDENHALL (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 687, Revise laws governing tobacco.

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a07\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:29:00 Mr. Neil Peterson, Department of Revenue

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a08\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus69a09\)](#)

01:42:27 **Mr. Chris Tweeten, Chief Civil Counsel, Attorney
General's Office**

01:46:12 **Ms. Kathy McGowan, American Cancer Society**

01:47:27 **Mr. Mark Staples, Montana Wholesale Distributors**

01:50:33 **Ms. Ronna Alexander, Convenience Store Association**

01:51:31 **Mr. Jim Ahrens, Chairman, Alliance For Healthy
Montanans**

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

01:52:00

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:12:58

Closing by Sponsor:

02:18:01

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 772

Motion/Vote: SEN. ROUSH moved that HB 772 BE CONCURRED IN.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. SQUIRES and SEN.
TESTER voted aye by proxy.

EXHIBIT (bus69a10)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:00 A.M.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

ANNIE GLOVER, Secretary

VC/ag

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus69aad0.PDF](#))