

**MINUTES**

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

**COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SQUIRES**, on March 16, 2005 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 317-C 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: Confirmation Hearings on  
Nominations for State Department  
Directors and various Boards.  
SR 6, 3/4/2005; SR 7, 3/4/2005;  
SR 8, 3/4/2005; SR 11, 3/4/2005;  
SR 13, 3/4/2005

Executive Action: None.

GOVERNOR'S CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2.3 - 5.1}*

HEARING ON SR 13

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

**Bruce Nelson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Honorable Governor Brian Schweitzer**, introduced the following nominations of appointments made by the Governor:

**Keith Kelly, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry; Major General Randy Mosley, Adjutant General and Director, Department of Military Affairs; and Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**

**Mr. Nelson** urged the Committee's favorable consideration of the nominations. He added, as required by law, **Governor Schweitzer** has submitted all interim appointments of former **Governor Judy Martz** for the Committee's consideration.

Proponents' Testimony:

**Bob Pavlovich, Butte; and Joe Foster, Administrator, Department of Military Affairs**, urged the confirmation of Major General Randy Mosley as Director of the Department of Military Affairs.

**Dan Antonietti, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**, urged the Committee's consideration of all three nominations.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor: None.

**SEN. SQUIRES** closed the hearing on SR 13.

HEARING ON SR 8

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5.1 - 9.6}*

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES (D), SD 48, opened the hearing on SR 8--the confirmations of the general government boards appointed by former Governor Judy Martz.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. MIKE COONEY, SD 40, informed the Committee that Gordon Higgins, Nominee, Commissioner of Political Practices, should also be included in SR 8.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. SQUIRES closed the hearing on SR 8.

HEARING ON SR 6

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9.6 - 10.3}*

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. SQUIRES opened the hearing on SR 6--the confirmations of the natural resource and recreation positions nominated by former Governor Judy Martz.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. SQUIRES closed the hearing on SR 6.

HEARING ON SR 7

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10.3 - 11.6}*

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

**SEN. SQUIRES (D), SD 48**, opened the hearing on SR 7--the confirmations of the education and cultural appointees by former Governor Judy Martz.

Proponents' Testimony:

**Bob Vogel, MT School Boards Association (MTSBA)**, said that both **Cal Gilbert, Great Falls, and Gay Ann Masolo, Townsend**, have been long-time friends of education and will continue to contribute greatly to the Board of Education.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

**SEN. SQUIRES** closed the hearing on SR 7.

HEARING ON SR 11

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11.6 - 11.7}*

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

**SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES (D), SD 48**, opened the hearing on SR 11--the confirmation of Roberta Threet as a member of the Board of Nursing. **SEN. SQUIRES** cited a letter from **Ms. Threet**.

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts58a01)

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, SD 47,** asked if the Board of Nursing had a rule regarding Board meeting attendance. **Lisa Addington, Department of Labor and Industry,** said that 2-15-1734, MCA, does not include specific language related to Board meeting attendance. Statutes typically state the compositions of the Boards and that the Governor appoints them.

**SEN. SQUIRES** asked, if someone spoke on the record about meeting attendance, are minutes of the meetings available? **Ms. Addington** said that all of the Boards under the Department are subject to open meeting laws and open to the public.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

**SEN. SQUIRES** closed the hearing on SR 11.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:30 P.M.

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SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES, Chairman

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CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

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LOIS O'CONNOR, Transcriber

CS/cj

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([sts58aad0.PDF](#))**