

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Bob Lake, on April 3, 2007 at 8:00  
A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)  
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**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: SB 174, 3/28/2007; SB 201,  
3/30/2007; SB 210, 3/30/2007; SB  
281, 3/30/2007

Executive Action: SB 284; SB 316

**HEARING ON SB 201**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:04 Sen. Rick Laible (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB  
201, Revise subdivision laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:09:38 Michael Kakuk, Attorney, Helena, representing Montana  
Association of Realtors

00:12:48 Tim Davis, Montana Smart Growth Coalition

**EXHIBIT (tah71a01)**

00:16:06 Dustin Stewart, representing Montana Building Industry  
Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:17:24 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association  
of Counties (MACo)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:18:37 Rep. Lambert  
00:21:05 Rep. Pomnichowski  
00:21:30 Tim Davis  
00:26:38 Rep. Jopek  
00:27:48 Michael Kakuk  
00:32:43 Tim Davis  
00:34:11 Rep. Jopek  
00:35:11 Rep. Erickson  
00:36:32 Sen. Laible  
00:43:21 Rep. Butcher  
00:45:03 Tim Davis  
00:47:28 Rep. Ross  
00:48:48 Rep. MacLaren  
00:52:53 Rep. Pomnichowski  
00:54:10 Rep. Jopek  
00:55:14 Michael Kakuk

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:55:32 Sen. Rick Laible

**HEARING ON SB 281**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:59:04 Sen. Joe Balyeat (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 281, Simplify income taxation for married couples filing individually.

**EXHIBIT** (tah71a02)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:05:12 Sen. Jim Elliott, SD 7

01:05:35 Holly Franz, representing Montana Society of CPAs

01:06:22 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:06:55 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:07:48 Rep. Nooney

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:08:16 Sen. Joe Balyeat

**HEARING ON SB 174**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:12:36 Sen. Jim Elliott (D), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB 174, Revise laws on revenue administration.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:15:25 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue

01:30:23 Holly Franz, representing Montana Society of CPAs

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:31:52 Rep. Hilbert  
01:32:55 David Hunter, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue  
01:37:16 Chairman Lake  
01:39:32 Rep. MacLaren  
01:41:41 Rep. Nooney  
01:43:22 Rep. Sonju  
01:44:24 Gene Walborn  
01:47:05 Chairman Lake

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:50:15 Sen. Jim Elliott  
  
01:53:41 Break  
02:07:39 Reconvene

**HEARING ON SB 210****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:08:33 Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 210, Revise energy conservation and weatherization laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:14:35 Sen. Kelly Gebhardt, SD 23  
02:16:26 Kathy Hadley, Executive Director, National Center of Appropriate Technology (NCAT)  
02:21:21 Pat Torgerson, Lambert resident  
02:23:20 Marg Crennen, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana  
02:25:16 Linda Gryczan, representing NCAT also speaking for WEEL  
02:26:35 Sen. Jim Peterson, SD 15

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

02:27:34 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:28:43 Rep. Sonju  
02:31:06 Sen. Gebhardt  
02:32:59 Chairman Lake  
02:33:47 Rep. Ross

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (Con't)**

02:35:29 Rep. Lambert  
02:35:49 Jeff Martin, Legislative Services Division  
02:36:17 Rep. Erickson  
02:38:19 Chairman Lake  
02:38:36 Sen. Gebhardt  
02:40:09 Rep. MacLaren  
02:40:39 Sen. Laslovich  
02:41:18 Brian Olsen

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:42:04 Sen. Jesse Laslovich

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 284**

02:44:45 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **SB 284 BE CONCURRED IN.**

02:45:38 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **SB 284 BE AMENDED.**

**EXHIBIT (tah71a03)**

**Discussion:**

02:45:55 Jeff Martin  
02:47:30 Chairman Lake  
02:48:03 Rep. Jopek  
02:48:50 Chairman Lake  
02:49:20 Rep. Jopek  
02:50:31 Jeff Martin  
02:52:27 Rep. Erickson  
02:53:30 Chairman Lake  
02:54:02 Rep. Cohenour  
02:54:30 Chairman Lake  
02:54:53 Rep. Ross  
02:55:35 Rep. Nooney  
02:56:04 Jeff Martin

02:56:34 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Pomnichowski voting no.

02:56:59 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Sonju moved that **SB 284 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED** 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Erickson voting no. Rep. Lake will carry SB 284.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 316**

02:58:58 **Motion:** Rep. Erickson moved that **SB 316 BE CONCURRED IN.**

02:59:06 **Motion:** Rep. Erickson moved that **SB 316 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT (tah71a04)**

**Discussion:**

02:59:13 Rep. Erickson

03:00:11 Rep. McAlpin

03:00:29 Jeff Martin

03:01:10 Chairman Lake

03:01:28 Rep. Erickson

03:01:38 Rep. Hilbert

03:02:09 Chairman Lake

03:02:17 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote.

03:02:27 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Erickson moved that **SB 316 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Erickson will carry SB 316.

**Additional Exhibit:**

**EXHIBIT (tah71a05)**

Pertaining to SB 284 heard in the Taxation Committee on March 22, 2007

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:10 A.M.

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REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tah71aad.pdf](#))**