

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN JIM ELLIOTT**, on January 18, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Jim Elliott, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)  
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)  
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)  
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)  
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)  
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (D)  
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)  
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch  
Lois O'Connor, 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 215, 1/15/2007; SB 231,  
1/15/2007; SB 233, 1/15/2007  
Executive Action: SB 121

00:03:51

**HEARING ON SB 231**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:04:25 **SEN. JOSEPH (JOE) TROPILA (D), SD 13**, opened the hearing on **SB 231**, Tax reform study committee.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:48 Mary Wittinghill, Executive Director, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)

00:08:12 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:09:03 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers Association

00:10:16 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau

00:10:35 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:11 Sen. Jim Peterson to Sen. Tropila

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:12:15 Sen. Tropila closed on SB 231.

**Discussion:**

00:13:12 Sen. Kelly Gebhardt

**HEARING ON SB 215**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:13:44 **SEN. DAN HARRINGTON (D), SD 38**, opened the hearing on **SB 215**, Revise property tax levy limit to adjust for inflation.

**EXHIBIT** (tas12a01)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:17:05 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

00:28:52 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

00:30:49 Chris Kukulski, City Manager, City of Bozeman

**EXHIBIT (tas12a02)**

00:35:02 J.D. Lynch, City of Butte-SilverBow

00:35:22 Joe Mazurek, City of Great Falls

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:36:39 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau

00:38:03 Mary Wittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association  
(MonTax)

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:42:08 Sen. Robert Story to Mr. Hansen, MLCT

00:47:30 Sen. Jim Elliott to Mr. Kukulski, City of Bozeman

00:52:45 Sen. Elliott to Ms. Wittinghill, MonTax

00:59:06 Sen. Story

01:00:43 Sen. Elliott

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:00:59 Sen. Harrington closed on SB 215.

**HEARING ON SB 233**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:04:50 **SEN. JIM ELLIOTT (D), SD 7**, opened the hearing on **SB 233**, Allow multiple counties to create museum districts.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:08:11 Gail Patton, Sanders County Commissioner  
01:12:41 Allan McCoy, resident, Hot Springs, MT  
01:15:11 Leigh Herman, resident, Hot springs, MT  
01:15:50 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of  
Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:17:34 Sen. Gebhardt to Commissioner Patton, Sanders County  
01:21:21 Sen. Story to Sen. Elliott  
01:25:59 Sen. Peterson to Sen. Elliott  
01:28:02 Sen. Gebhardt

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:29:30 Sen. Elliott closed on SB 233.  
01:32:12 Sen. Elliott

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 121**

01:33:01 **Motion:** SEN. ELLIOTT moved that SB 121 DO PASS.  
01:33:27 **Motion:** SEN. ELLIOTT moved the approval of proposed  
Department of Revenue amendments.

**EXHIBIT (tas12a03)**

**Discussion:**

01:34:04 Lee Heiman, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services  
Division (LSD)  
01:36:09 Sen. Elliott  
01:37:06 **Vote:** SEN. ELLIOTT'S motion that the DOR amendments be  
approved passed unanimously by voice vote. SEN. SCHMIDT  
was excused.

**Discussion:**

01:37:31 Sen. Kaufmann

01:38:33 Sen. Kaufmann to Brenda Gilmer, Attorney, Department of Revenue (DOR)

01:41:28 Sen. Jeff Essmann to Sen. Kaufmann

01:43:01 Sen. Story

01:44:14 Sen. Elliott

01:44:48 Sen. Kaufmann to Sen. Elliott

01:46:19 **Motion:** SEN. KAUFMANN moved amendment #SB012103.ALH.

**EXHIBIT (tas12a04)****Discussion:**

01:46:27 Sen. Peterson

01:47:16 Sen. Elliott

01:48:05 Sen. Gebhardt

01:48:36 **Vote:** SEN. KAUFMANN'S motion passed unanimously by voice vote. SEN. SCHMIDT was excused.

01:48:53 **Motion:** SEN. ELLIOTT moved that SB 121 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

01:49:00 **Motion:** SEN. ESSMANN moved to further amend SB 121 to include the language "up to \$10,000". Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. SEN. SCHMIDT was excused.

01:50:29 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. ELLIOTT moved that SB 121 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. SCHMIDT was excused.

**General Discussion:**

01:51:10 Sen. Elliott

01:51:35 Sen. Peterson to Sen. Kim Gillan

01:51:55 Sen. Elliott

01:52:34 Sen. Kaufmann

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:52 A.M.

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SEN. JIM ELLIOTT, Chairman

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LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

JE/lo

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tas12aad.pdf](#))**