

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on January 26, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Claudia Johnson, 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: SB 304, 1/23/2007; SB 250,
1/23/2007; SB 315, 1/23/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:00:00 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 304

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:52 **SEN. JESSE LASLOVICH (D), SD 43**, opened the hearing on **SB 304**, Limit health care information subject to disclosure on worker compensation claim.

Proponents:

00:11:39 Andrea Olson, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

00:15:24 Norm Newhall, Attorney, Great Falls, Workers' Compensation (WC)

00:19:18 Rick Pyfer, Claimant's Attorney

00:25:18 Don Judge, Montana Injured Workers' Resource Council

Opponents:

00:27:56 Nancy Butler, Montana State Fund (MSF)

00:32:18 Larry Jones, Attorney, Liberty Northwest

EXHIBIT (bus18a01)

00:39:31 George Wood, Executive Secretary, Montana Self-Insurers Association

00:40:52 Shawn Bubb, Montana School Boards Association

00:43:43 Andy Adamek, MHA Workers' Compensation Trust

00:48:57 Jaqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association

00:52:09 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

00:53:18 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:54:28 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

Informational Testimony:

00:54:47 Jerry Keck, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

EXHIBIT (bus18a02)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:55:48 Sen. Esp to Nancy Butler, MSF

00:57:40 Sen. Cocchiarella

00:58:40 Sen. Smith to Nancy Butler, MSF

01:00:29 Sen. Esp to Sen. Laslovich

01:01:25 Sen. Squires to Sen. Laslovich

01:02:45 Sen. Squires to Jerry Keck, DLI

01:06:06 Chairwoman Cocchiarella to Jerry Keck, DLI

01:06:23 Sen. Balyeat to Rick Pyfer, Attorney

01:08:47 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Laslovich

01:10:56 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Laslovich

01:12:24 Sen. Cocchiarella to Pat Hunt, State Fund Claimants'
Adjuster

Closing by Sponsor:

01:17:32 Sen. Laslovich

01:21:24 5 minute break

HEARING ON SB 250

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:31:26 **SEN. GREGORY BARKUS (R), SD 4**, opened the hearing on **SB 250**, Right to work.

Proponents:

01:43:28 Walt Torgerson, Self

01:47:34 Greg Hagenston, Montana Right to Work

01:48:02 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent
Business (NFIB)

EXHIBIT (bus18a03)

EXHIBIT (bus18a04)

01:49:13 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

01:49:52 Sen. Gary Perry, Self

Opponents:

02:00:28 Jason Miller, AFL-CIO

EXHIBIT (bus18a05)

02:04:58 Jacquie Halt, United Local 427 AFL-CIO

02:07:30 Tom Snyder, Montana Public Employees Association (MPEA)

02:09:03 Kurt Bushnell, President, Montana State Firemen's
Association

02:11:33 J.D. Lynch, Montana State Building Trades (MSBT)

02:13:45 Evan Barrett, Economic Development, Governor's Office

02:17:18 Katie Kassmier, Montana Farmer's and Ranchers

02:18:56 Brad Molnar, Self

02:20:24 Rep. John Parker, Self

02:21:59 Jim Carl, Self

02:22:52 Keith Allen, International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Local 233

02:23:12 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Local 44 (IBEW)

02:23:22 Larry Nielsen, MEA-MFT

02:23:27 Don Judge, Montana Nurses Association and Teamsters
Local 190

02:23:38 Jim Murray, Self

02:23:55 Warren Smelter, Laborers Union
02:24:10 Tom Curry, IBEW 532
02:24:19 Jim King, Operating Engineers Local Union 440
02:24:29 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association
02:24:41 Don Kinman Executive Director, American Lawyers
Federation
02:25:00 Mike Boysan, President, Carpenters Union
02:25:25 Jerry Driscoll, Self
02:25:38 Nicholas Cocergine, UFCW Local 4

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:26:24 Sen. Larson to Sen. Barkus
02:29:58 Sen. Esp to J.D. Lynch, MSBT
02:30:41 Sen. Balyeat to Jason Miller, AFL-CIO
02:35:02 Sen. Ryan to Jason Miller, AFL-CIO
02:36:47 Sen. Squires to Jason Miller, AFL-CIO

Closing by Sponsor:

02:38:00 Sen. Barkus

HEARING ON SB 315

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:39:07 **SEN. JOHN COBB (R), SD 9**, opened the hearing on **SB 315**,
Student loan forgiveness program.

EXHIBIT (bus18a06)

EXHIBIT (bus18a07)

Proponents:

02:44:42 Jessica LaRoche, Associated Student Body-Montana State University System (ASMSU)

02:45:15 Denver Henderson, Associated Student Body-University of Montana (ASUM)

02:48:01 Dick Brown, Montana Health Care Providers

02:49:21 Rose Hughes, Executive Director, Montana Health Care Association

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:51:17 Sen. Brown to Sen. Cobb

02:54:07 Sen. Esp to Sen. Cobb

02:56:04 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Cobb

02:58:53 Sen. Ryan to Jessica Laroche, ASMSU

03:00:22 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Cobb

Closing by Sponsor:

03:03:17 Sen. Cobb

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:07 P.M.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

VC/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus18aad.pdf](#))