

**MINUTES**

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

**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on February 15, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 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 453, 2/13/2007; SB 419,  
2/13/2007; SB 429, 2/13/2007  
Executive Action: SB 276, SB 369, SB 434, SB 453

00:12:48 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

**HEARING ON SB 453**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:14:56 **SEN. JEFF ESSMANN (R), SD 28**, opened the hearing on **SB 453**, Require licensing boards to provide public information re disciplinary actions.

**Proponents:**

00:17:00 Ann Brodsky, Legal Staff, Governor's Office

**EXHIBIT (bus34a01)**

00:20:48 Gene Allison, Chief Attorney, Business and Standards Division, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

00:21:33 John Barrows, Executive Director, Montana Newspaper Association

00:22:10 Keith Allen, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 233 (IBEW 233)

**Opponents:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:22:52 Sen. Squires to Gene Allison, DLI

00:27:51 Sen. Squires to John Barrows, Montana Newspaper Association

00:29:19 Sen. Balyeat to Gene Allison, DLI

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:34:38 Sen. Essmann

**HEARING ON SB 419**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:39:22 SEN. GREG LIND (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 419, Allow children to remain covered by parent's health insurance to age 26.

**EXHIBIT (bus34a02)**

**Proponents:**

00:43:03 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana (BC/BS)

00:44:09 Don Judge, Teamsters Local 190

00:46:05 Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association (MMA)

00:46:39 Claudia Clifford, AARP Montana

00:47:16 Frank Cote, American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

00:47:33 Olivia Riutta, Working for Equity and Economic Liberation (WEEL)

00:48:41 Stacy Miller, Self

00:49:33 Mike Hanshew, Self

00:51:19 Angela Huschka, New West Health Care

00:51:45 Carol Roy, State Auditors Office (SAO)

**Opponents:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:52:26 Sen. Ryan to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

00:55:44 Sen. Balyeat to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

01:00:31 Sen. Squires to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

01:03:15 Sen. Cocchiarella to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

01:04:41 Sen. Balyeat to Tanya Ask, BC/BS

01:07:11 Sen. Cocchiarella to Connie Welsh, Administrator,  
Health Care Service Plan, Department of Administration  
(D of A)

01:09:07 Sen. Cocchiarella to Connie Welsh, D of A

01:09:57 Sen. Ryan to Frank Cote, AHIP

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:13:02 Sen. Lind

**Discussion:**

01:15:31 Sen. Ryan to Connie Welsh, D of A

01:17:26 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Lind

**HEARING ON SB 429**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:24:38 **SEN. STEVEN GALLUS (D), SD 37**, opened the hearing on **SB 429**, Eliminate credit scoring for homeowner's insurance.

**Proponents:**

01:30:13 Carol Roy, State Auditor's Office (SAO)

01:38:56 Derf Johnson, Montana Public Research Group

**Opponents:**

01:39:51 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:44:16 Sen. Brown to Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance  
Company

01:46:55 Sen. Balyeat to Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance  
Company

01:50:18 Sen. Ryan to Carol Roy, SAO

- 01:53:45 Sen. Smith to Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company
- 01:56:03 Sen. Jackson to Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company
- 01:59:08 Sen. Cocchiarella to Carol Roy, SAO
- 02:00:26 Sen. Cocchiarella to Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company
- 02:02:06 Sen. Ryan to Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company
- 02:03:54 Sen. Brown to Carol Roy, SAO
- 02:05:20 Sen. Cocchiarella to Carol Roy, SAO
- 02:07:08 Sen. Steinbeisser to Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company

**Closing by Sponsor:**

- 02:08:58 Sen. Gallus

**Discussion:**

- 02:10:05 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance Company
- 02:12:11 Sen. Cocchiarella to Carol Roy, SAO

**EXHIBIT (bus34a03)**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 276**

- 02:14:11 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. TROPILA moved to RECONSIDER SB 276 from February 14, 2007, hearing. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. ESP voted by proxy.

**Discussion:**

- 02:14:26 Sen. Steinbeisser

**EXHIBIT (bus34a04)**

- 02:16:16 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. STEINBEISSER moved that AMENDMENT SB027605.APM BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. ESP voted by proxy.

02:16:35 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. STEINBEISSER moved that SB 276 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried 10-1 by voice vote with SEN. COCCHIARELLA voting no. SEN. ESP voted by proxy.

**Discussion:**

02:14:47 Pat Murdo, LSD

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 369**

02:18:52 **Motion:** SEN. SMITH moved that SB 369 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

02:19:20 Sen. Jackson to Sen. Cocchiarella

02:20:15 Sen. Smith

02:20:30 Sen. Balyeat

02:21:22 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:21:55 Sen. Smith

02:22:37 Sen. Jackson

02:23:16 Sen. Smith withdrew his motion on SB 369.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 434**

02:24:13 **Motion:** SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that SB 434 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

02:24:15 **Motion:** SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that AMENDMENT SB043402.APM BE ADOPTED.

**EXHIBIT (bus34a05)**

**Discussion:**

02:25:26 Sen. Cocchiarella to Sen. Ryan

02:29:03 Sen. Balyeat

02:31:04 Sen. Brown

02:31:17 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:32:22 **Vote:** Motion that AMENDMENT SB043402.APM BE ADOPTED carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. ESP and SEN. SQUIRES voted by proxy.

02:32:30 **Motion:** SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that SB 434 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

**Discussion:**

02:33:30 Sen. Balyeat

02:35:34 Sen. Ryan

02:37:38 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:40:20 **Vote:** Motion that SB 434 DO PASS AS AMENDED carried 9-2 by voice vote with SEN. BALYEAT and SEN. BROWN voting no. SEN. ESP and SEN. SQUIRES voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 453**

**Discussion:**

02:41:41 Pat Murdo, LSD

02:42:23 **Motion:** SEN. STEINBEISSER moved that SB 453 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

02:42:36 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. STEINBEISSER moved that AMENDMENT SB045301.APM BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. ESP and SEN. SQUIRES voted by proxy.

02:43:03 **Motion:** SEN. STEINBEISSER moved that SB 453 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

**Discussion:**

02:43:16 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:44:26 Sen. Balyeat

02:47:00 Sen. Cocchiarella

02:47:54 Sen. Brown

02:49:09 Vote: Motion that SB 453 DO PASS AS AMENDED carried 6-5 by roll call vote with SEN. BALYEAT, SEN. BROWN, SEN. ESP, SEN. JACKSON, and SEN. STEINBEISSER voting no. SEN. ESP and SEN. SQUIRES voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:00 P.M.

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SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

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CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

VC/cj

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([bus34aad.pdf](#))**