

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DAN WEINBERG**, on February 2, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Dan Weinberg, Chairman (D)
Sen. Lynda Moss, Vice Chairman (D)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Terry Murphy (R)
Sen. Jerry O'Neil (R)
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, 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 354, 2/26/2007; SB 182,
2/26/2007; SB 118, 2/26/2007;;
Executive Action: SB 132; SB 162; SB 206; SB 118

00:00:02

HEARING ON SB 354

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:37 **SEN. GREG LIND (D), SD 50**, opened the hearing on **SB 354**, Revise physician medicaid reimbursement conversion factor.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:29 Dr. Kurt Kubicka, Helena

EXHIBIT (phs23a01)

00:13:29 Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

EXHIBIT (phs23a02)

00:23:29 Brian Chandler, Great Falls Clinic

EXHIBIT (phs23a03)

00:31:25 Dr. Mike Schweitzer, Chairman of the Board of the Rocky Mountain Health Network

EXHIBIT (phs23a04)

00:33:31 Dr. Dave Chavez, Yellowstone Endocrinology Clinic, St. Vincent's Hospital

00:38:17 Mike Foster, Sisters of Charity Hospitals

00:38:55 Bob Olson, Montana Hospital Association

00:39:14 Jani McCall, Billings Clinic

00:39:29 Steve Yeakel, Montana Council for Maternal and Child Health

00:39:56 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

00:43:30 Cory Swanson, Montana Orthopaedic Society

00:44:13 Chuck Hunter, Montana Primary Care Association

00:45:27 Dr. Winnea, Great Falls

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:48:54 Sen. O'Neil to Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

00:52:00 Sen. Williams to Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

00:54:12 Sen. Moss to Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

00:55:49 Sen. Schmidt to Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

00:58:40 Sen. Schmidt to John Chappuis, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

01:01:10 Sen. Schmidt to Dr. Mike Schweitzer, Chairman of the Board of the Rocky Mountain Health Network

01:01:55 Sen. Cobb to Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

01:02:43 Sen. Cobb to Sen. Lind

01:04:38 Sen. Weinberg to Sen. Lind

Closing by Sponsor:

01:05:50 Sen. Lind closed on the bill.

HEARING ON SB 182

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:10:34 **SEN. JOHN COBB (R), SD 9**, opened the hearing on **SB 182**, Set physician Medicaid rates as a percentage of rates paid by Medicare.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:13:16 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

01:13:48 Bob Olson, Montana Hospital Association

01:14:14 Jani McCall, Billings Clinic

Opponents' Testimony:

01:14:36 Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

01:19:22 Dr. Kurt Kubicka, Montana Medical Association

Informational Testimony:

01:22:38 John Chappuis, DPHHS

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:22:55 Sen. Weinberg to Sen. Cobb

Closing by Sponsor:

01:23:27 Sen. Cobb closed on the bill.

HEARING ON SB 118

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:23:58 **SEN. JOHN COBB (R), SD 9**, opened the hearing on **SB 118**,
Eliminate sunset for hospital bed tax.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:25:04 Bob Olson, Montana Hospital Association

[**EXHIBIT \(phs23a05\)**](#)

[**EXHIBIT \(phs23a06\)**](#)

01:31:50 Mike Foster, Sisters of Charity Hospitals

01:34:25 Jack Casey, Administrator, Shodair Hospital

[**EXHIBIT \(phs23a07\)**](#)

01:36:13 Jani McCall, Billings Clinic

[**EXHIBIT \(phs23a08\)**](#)

01:38:00 Allan Underdal, Toole County Commissioner

[**EXHIBIT \(phs23a09\)**](#)

01:39:06 Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association

01:39:36 Steve Yeakel, Montana Council for Maternal and Child
Health

01:40:35 Jani McCall, Billings Clinic

01:41:20 Sheryl Wood, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

01:41:47 John Chappuis, DPHHS

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:42:07 Sen. Gillan to Sen. Cobb

01:43:23 Sen. Gillan to Mr. Olson, Montana Hospital Association

01:46:16 Sen. O'Neil to Mr. Olson, Montana Hospital Association

01:49:02 Sen. Weinberg to John Chappuis, DPHHS

Closing by Sponsor:

01:49:55 Sen. Cobb closed on the bill.

01:52:04 Recess

01:56:11 Reconvene

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 132

01:56:13 **Motion:** SEN. MOSS moved that SB 132 DO PASS.

01:56:15 **Motion:** SEN. MOSS moved that SB013201.ALJ BE ADOPTED.

EXHIBIT (phs23a10)

Discussion:

01:57:49 Lisa Jackson

01:59:46 Sen. Gillan

02:00:35 Sen. Cobb

02:00:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

02:01:03 **Motion:** SEN. MOSS moved that SB 132 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

02:01:18 Sen. Esp

02:01:59 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-2 by voice vote with SEN. ESP and SEN. GILLAN voting no. SEN. SCHMIDT voted aye by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 162

02:03:24 **Motion:** SEN. SCHMIDT moved that SB 162 DO PASS.

Discussion:

02:04:18 Sen. O'Neil to Sen. Schmidt

02:04:41 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 206

02:05:09 Sen. Cobb moved SB 206 DO PASS

Discussion:

02:05:29 Sen. O'Neil to Sen. Cobb

02:06:08 Sen. Weinberg to Sen. Cobb

02:07:12 Sen. O'Neil to Sen. Cobb

02:07:54 Sen. O'Neil

02:08:09 Sen. Gillan

02:08:53 Sen. Cobb

02:09:20 Sen. Weinberg

02:09:35 Sen. O'Neil

02:10:24 Sen. Gillan

02:10:47 Sen. Esp

02:11:10 Sen. Cobb

02:11:37 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-1 by voice vote with SEN. ESP voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 118

02:12:04 **Motion:** SEN. MOSS moved that SB 118 DO PASS.
02:12:26 Sen. Weinberg
02:12:37 Sen. O'Neil
02:12:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-1 by voice vote with SEN. ESP
voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 354

01:13:01 Sen. Esp
02:13:39 Sen. Cobb
02:14:01 Sen. Esp
02:14:15 Sen. Weinberg to Sen. Cobb
02:14:52 Sen. Weinberg

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 182

02:15:36 Sen. Cobb moved to table SB 182
02:15:52 Sen. Weinberg
02:16:02 Sen. Williams
02:16:21 Sen. Cobb withdrew his motion
02:16:39 Sen. Weinberg
02:17:25 Sen. Schmidt
02:19:36 Sen. Gillan
02:20:23 Sen. Weinberg
02:20:52 Sen. Schmidt
02:20:58 Lisa Jackson
02:21:07 Sen. Williams

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:23 P.M.

SEN. DAN WEINBERG, Chairman

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

DW/pg