

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SQUIRES**, on March 14, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Carolyn Squires, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Larry Jent (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Jim Shockley (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Dave Bohyer, 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: HB 357, 3/5/2007; HB 124, 3/5/2007;
HB 140, 3/5/2007; HB 129, 3/5/2007;
HB 132, 3/5/2007
Executive Action: HB 357, HB 132, HB 140, HB 124, HB
86, HB 153

00:01:10

HEARING ON HB 357

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:34 **REP. JILL COHENOUR (D), HD 78**, opened the hearing on **HB 357**, Revise blind vender and blind person preference laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:19 Donna Harris, Blind Vendor

00:04:25 Carl Schweitzer, Montana Association For The Blind (MAFTB)

00:05:03 Elaine Taylor, Montana Beverage Association

00:05:29 John Blacker, Montana Department of Transportation (DOT)

Opponents' Testimony:

Informational Testimony:

00:06:14 Matt Bugni, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:06:44 Sen. Dave Lewis to Mr. Schweitzer, MAFTB

00:07:39 Sen. Carolyn Squires to Ms. Harris, Blind Vendor

00:08:19 Sen. Rick Laible to Rep. Cohenour

00:08:55 Sen. Jeff Essmann to Mr. Blacker, DOT

Closing by Sponsor:

00:10:12 Rep. Cohenour

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 357

00:11:00 **Motion/Vote:** **SEN. TROPILA** moved that **HB 357 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. **SEN. LEWIS** will carry the bill.

HEARING ON HB 124

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:12:29 **REP. JULIE FRENCH (D), HD 36**, opened the hearing on **HB 124**, Flexibility in contracting for public employee health care benefits.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:13:47 John Thomas, Procurement Division, Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

00:14:53 Mick Robinson, Montana University Systems

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:15:48 Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella to Rep. French rereferred to Mr. Thomas, DOA

Closing by Sponsor:

00:18:38 Rep. French

HEARING ON HB 140

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:20:03 **REP. PAT INGRAHAM (R), HD 13**, opened the hearing on **HB 140**, Notarization not required if declaration for nomination filed electronically.

EXHIBIT(sts54a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:24:18 Mark Simonich, Office of the Honorable Secretary of State Brad Johnson (SOS)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:26:52 Sen. Lewis to Mr. Simonich, SOS
00:28:02 Sen. Joe Balyeat to Mr. Simonich, SOS
00:28:57 Sen. Cocchiarella to Mr. Simonich, SOS

Closing by Sponsor:

00:29:51 Rep. Ingraham

HEARING ON HB 129

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:30:36 **REP. DAVE GALLIK (D), HD 79**, opened the hearing on **HB 129**, Revise retirement laws to conform to federal law and decisions.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:31:26 Kim Flatow, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

EXHIBIT (sts54a02)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:35:41 Sen. Cocchiarella to Ms. Flatow, MPERA
00:38:12 Sen. Joe Tropila to Ms. Flatow, MPERA
00:38:36 Sen. Jim Shockley to Ms. Flatow, MPERA
00:39:42 Sen. Balyeat to Ms. Flatow, MPERA
00:40:58 Sen. Balyeat to Melanie Symons, Chief Legal Counsel, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

Closing by Sponsor:

00:41:53 Rep. Gallik

HEARING ON HB 132

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:42:29 **REP. JON SESSO (D), HD 76**, opened the hearing on **HB 132**, Revise laws on access to state publications.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:44:54 Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Library

00:52:08 Jim Hill, Administrator, Montana Digital Library, State Law Library of Montana

EXHIBIT (sts54a03)

00:53:07 Kathy Bramer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

00:54:54 Lois Fitzpatrick, Montana Library Association

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:55:34 Patty Borsberry, Office of the Honorable Secretary of State Brad Johnson (SOS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:56:08 Sen. Laible to Ms. Staffeldt, State Librarian

Closing by Sponsor:

00:57:52 Rep. Sesso

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 132

00:59:10 **Motion/Vote:** **SEN. GALLUS** moved that **HB 132 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. **SEN. LAIBLE** will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 140

00:59:46 **Motion/Vote:** **SEN. COCCHIARELLA** moved that **HB 140 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. **SEN. LEWIS** will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 124

01:00:41 **Motion:** SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that HB 124 BE CONCURRED IN.

01:00:51 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved to amend HB 124 with amendment #HB012401.ALJ. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

EXHIBIT (sts54a04)

01:01:01 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. COCCHIARELLA moved that HB 124 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. LASLOVICH will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 86

01:03:24 **Motion:** SEN. BALYEAT moved that HB 86 BE CONCURRED IN.

01:04:11 **Motion:** SEN. BALYEAT moved to amend HB 86 with amendment #HB008601.ADB.

EXHIBIT (sts54a05)

Discussion:

01:04:53 Sen. Balyeat

01:05:10 Sen. Gallus to Sen. Balyeat rereferred to Dave Bohyer, Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

01:06:27 Sen. Balyeat

01:06:41 Sen. Gallus to Mr. Bohyer, LSD

01:07:19 Sen. Cocchiarella

01:07:44 **Vote:** Motion that #HB008601.ADB be adopted carried unanimously by voice vote.

01:07:59 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. BALYEAT moved that HB 86 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. SEN. BALYEAT will carry the bill.

Discussion:

01:08:17 Sen. Balyeat

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 153

01:09:36 **Motion:** SEN. GALLUS moved that HB 153 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

01:10:14 Mr. Bohyer, LSD

01:10:26 **Motion:** SEN. BALYEAT moved to amend HB 153 with amendment #HB015301.ADB.

EXHIBIT(sts54a06)

Discussion:

01:13:32 Sen. Laslovich to Sen. Balyeat

01:15:39 Sen. Squires to Sen. Balyeat

01:16:50 Sen. Gallus

01:18:14 Sen. Laslovich

01:18:26 **SEN. GALLUS withdrew the BE CONCURRED IN motion. No further action was taken.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:20 P.M.

SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES, Chairman

LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

CS/lo

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([sts54aad.pdf](#))