

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Jon Sonju, on January 28, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Jon Sonju, Chairman (R)
Rep. Bob Ebinger, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Gordon Vance, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Elsie Arntzen (R)
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)
Rep. Tom Berry (R)
Rep. Deborah Kottel (D)
Rep. Margaret MacDonald (D)
Rep. Lee Randall (R)
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)
Rep. Janna Taylor (R)
Rep. Bill Wilson (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Katie Butcher, Committee Secretary
Rachel Weiss, 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: HB 320, HB 316, HB 371
Executive Action: HB 371, HB 92, HB 233

00:00:01 Call to order

HEARING ON HB 316

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:03 Rep. Timothy Furey (D), HD 91, opened the hearing on HB 316, Revise motor vehicle driver laws for buses.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:03 Tom Butler, Captain, Montana Highway Patrol

00:04:15 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association

00:04:54 Jim Lynch, Director, Department of Transportation

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

(Rep. Wilson arrived)

00:05:38 Rep. Ebinger

00:06:08 Rep. Furey

00:06:44 Rep. Arntzen

00:07:01 Mr. Gilbert

00:07:12 Rep. Arntzen

00:07:44 Mr. Gilbert

Closing by Sponsor:

00:08:16 Rep. Furey

HEARING ON HB 371

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:08:52 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on HB 371, Revise and clarify train crossing laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:10:51 Craig Gilchrist, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

00:11:21 Mike Halligan, Washington Corporation

00:12:13 Barbara Ranf, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway

00:12:45 Bob Gilbert, Montana Tow Truck Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:13:26 Rep. Wilson
00:13:46 Mr. Halligan

Closing by Sponsor:

00:13:59 Rep. Cohenour

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 371

00:16:06 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 371 DO PASS.**
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON HB 320

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:17:46 Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D), HD 49, opened the hearing on
HB 320, Eliminate front license plate requirement for
certain vehicles.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:21:15 Tom Butler, Captain, Montana Highway Patrol
00:25:18 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Contractors Association
00:26:10 Ronna Alexander, Montana Petroleum Marketers and
Convenience Store Association
00:27:59 Jessie Luther, Association of Montana Troopers

Informational Testimony:

00:28:34 Gayle Lambert, Administrator, Montana Correctional
Enterprises

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:29:02 Rep. Wilson
00:29:13 Rep. Van Dyk
00:29:27 Chairman Sonju
00:29:40 Ms. Lambert

00:30:10 Chairman Sonju
00:30:16 Ms. Lambert
00:30:33 Rep. Vance
00:30:51 Rep. Van Dyk

Closing by Sponsor:

00:31:40 Rep. Van Dyk

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 92

00:33:54 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 92 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

00:34:07 Rep. MacDonald
00:34:37 Rachel Weiss, Legislative Services Division
EXHIBIT (trh20a01)

00:34:54 Chairman Sonju
00:35:07 Ms. Weiss
00:35:49 Chairman Sonju

00:35:55 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. MacDonald moved that **HB 92 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

00:36:34 Ms. Weiss
EXHIBIT (trh20a02)

00:37:21 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 92 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

00:37:35 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. MacDonald moved that **HB 92 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

00:37:56 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 92 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

00:38:15 Rep. MacDonald
00:39:02 Rep. Kottel
00:42:44 Rep. Berry
00:43:34 Chairman Sonju
00:43:39 Rep. Berry
00:43:49 Rep. Kottel
00:44:16 Rep. MacDonald
00:44:37 Chairman Sonju

00:44:58 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Vance moved that **HB 92 BE TABLED**.
Motion carried 10-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Ebinger
and Rep. MacDonald voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 233

00:47:02 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 233 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

00:47:22 Ms. Weiss
[EXHIBIT \(trh20a03\)](#)

00:48:50 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 233 BE
AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

00:49:13 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 233 BE AMENDED**.

Discussion:

00:49:30 Rep. Vance
00:49:50 Chairman Sonju
00:50:50 Rep. Vance
00:51:00 Rep. Randall

00:52:08 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Vance moved that **HB 233 BE TABLED**.
Motion carried 11-1 by voice vote with Rep. Wilson
voting no.

00:53:00 Chairman Sonju
00:54:41 Rep. Ebinger

ADJOURNMENT

00:54:51 Adjournment

Katie Butcher, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([trh20aad.pdf](#))