

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Jon Sonju, on February 18, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 3:00 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Jon Sonju, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Gordon Vance, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Elsie Arntzen (R)  
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)  
Rep. Deborah Kottel (D)  
Rep. Margaret MacDonald (D)  
Rep. Lee Randall (R)  
Rep. Janna Taylor (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** Rep. Bob Ebinger, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Tom Berry (R)  
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)  
Rep. Bill Wilson (D)

**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 & Date Posted: HB 536, HB 573, HB 600, HB 607  
Executive Action: HB 472, HB 567, HB 563, HB 531  
HB 279, HB 437

00:00:01 Call to order  
(Rep. Roundstone, and Rep. Berry arrived.)

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 472**

00:00:39 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Barrett moved that **HB 472 DO PASS.**  
Motion carried 11-1 by voice vote with Rep. Berry  
voting no. Rep. Ebinger and Rep. Wilson voted by proxy.

(Chairman Sonju asked Vice Chairman Vance to serve as temporary  
chairman. Rep. Ebinger arrived.)

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 567**

00:05:56 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 567 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

00:06:19 Bruce Spencer, Montana Automobile Dealers Association  
**EXHIBIT (trh38a01)**

00:10:11 Mona Jamison, General Motors

00:12:46 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 567 BE AMENDED.**  
Motion carried 11-0 by voice vote.

00:13:13 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 567 DO PASS AS  
AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep.  
Wilson voted by proxy.

(Vice Chairman Vance closed the hearing, and Rep. Sonju resumed  
as chairman.)

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 563**

00:14:05 **Motion:** Rep. Kottel moved that **HB 563 DO PASS.**

00:14:57 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Kottel moved that **HB 563 BE AMENDED.**  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Wilson  
voted by proxy.

**EXHIBIT (trh38a02)**

00:16:10 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Kottel moved that **HB 563 DO PASS AS  
AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep.  
Wilson voted by proxy.

**HEARING ON HB 573**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:17:33 Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 573, Reduce period of license suspension for participant in treatment court.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:24:06 Eric Bryson, Court Services; Commissioner, Gallatin County

00:27:36 Eric Albright, Big Sky Ignition Interlock

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:29:46 Rep. Arntzen

00:30:11 Mr. Bryson

00:31:50 Rep. Arntzen

00:32:04 Mr. Albright

00:33:59 Chairman Sonju

00:34:05 Mr. Bryson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:35:01 Rep. Pomnichowski

**HEARING ON HB 607**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:37:23 Rep. Bob Wagner (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 607, Generally revise motor carrier laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:47:09 Jim Lynch, Director, Department of Transportation  
[EXHIBIT \(trh38a03\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:54:37 Rep. Kottel  
00:55:20 Mr. Lynch  
00:55:53 Chairman Sonju  
00:56:00 Rep. Wagner

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:56:40 Rep. Wagner

**HEARING ON HB 600**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:01:48 Rep. Mike Miller (R), HD 84, opened the hearing on  
HB 600, Acceptance of federal rights of way.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:03:43 Tim Ravnedal, Townsend, Montana  
01:11:56 Bob Korizek, Helena, Montana  
01:13:15 Kerry White, Citizens for Balanced Use; Bozeman,  
Montana

**EXHIBIT (trh38a04)**

01:18:34 Jay Bodner, Montana Public Lands Council  
01:20:10 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:21:22 Rep. Ebinger  
01:21:39 Rep. Miller  
01:22:38 Mr. White  
01:23:57 Rep. Vance  
01:24:17 Mr. White  
01:25:09 Chairman Sonju  
01:25:26 Rep. Kottel  
01:25:46 Mr. White  
01:28:16 Rep. Barrett  
01:28:19 Rep. Miller  
01:30:55 Rep. Kottel  
01:31:17 Rep. Miller

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:31:32 Rep. Miller

**HEARING ON HB 536**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:32:17 Rep. Sue Malek (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on  
HB 536, Revise interlock ignition device requirements.  
**EXHIBIT** (trh38a05)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:35:42 Eric Albright, Big Sky Ignition Interlock  
01:38:33 Rep. Mike Menahan, HD 82, Helena, Montana

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:41:04 Rep. Ebinger  
01:41:11 Mr. Albright  
01:44:13 Rep. Arntzen  
01:44:38 Rep. Menahan  
01:45:45 Rep. Kottel  
01:46:19 Rep. Berry  
01:46:39 Rep. Malek  
01:46:47 Rep. Barrett  
01:47:25 Rep. Menahan

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:48:53 Rep. Malek  
01:50:41 Rep. Vance  
01:50:56 Chairman Sonju  
01:51:21 Rep. Arntzen

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 531**

01:51:53 **Motion:** Rep. Vance moved that **HB 531 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:52:12 Rep. MacDonald

01:53:47 Rep. Ebinger  
01:54:27 Rep. Berry  
01:55:19 Rep. Kottel  
01:56:23 Rep. Berry  
01:56:33 Rep. Kottel  
01:57:04 Rep. Taylor  
01:57:30 Chairman Sonju  
02:00:21 Rep. Ebinger  
02:01:38 Chairman Sonju  
02:02:01 Rep. Barrett  
02:02:25 Rep. Vance  
02:02:51 Rep. Ebinger

02:03:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Berry and Rep. MacDonald voting no. Rep. Wilson voted by proxy.

02:04:02 Rep. Ebinger

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 279**

02:04:42 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 279 DO PASS.**

02:04:57 **Motion:** Rep. Kottel moved that **HB 279 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT (trh38a06)**

**Discussion:**

02:06:20 Ms. Weiss  
**EXHIBIT (trh38a07)**

02:09:41 Rep. Kottel  
02:09:55 Ms. Weiss

02:10:01 Rep. Kottel withdrew her amendment without objection

02:10:30 Jim Lynch, Director, Department of Transportation  
02:11:16 Chairman Sonju  
02:11:40 Mr. Lynch  
02:12:16 Ms. Weiss

02:12:51 **Motion:** Rep. Arntzen moved that **HB 279 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

02:13:12 Rep. Ebinger  
02:13:24 Ms. Weiss

02:13:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
Rep. Wilson voted by proxy.

02:14:11 **Motion:** Rep. Kottel moved that **HB 279 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

02:14:24 Rep. Arntzen  
02:14:45 Mr. Lynch  
02:15:12 Chairman Sonju

02:15:48 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-3 by voice vote with Rep. Randall, Rep. Taylor, and Rep. Vance voting no. Rep. Wilson voted by proxy.

(Rep. Kottel left.)

02:16:59 Rep. Barrett  
02:17:54 Rep. Arntzen  
02:18:24 Rep. Vance  
02:19:12 Chairman Sonju

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 437**

02:19:58 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 437 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

02:20:12 Rep. Taylor  
02:21:20 Rep. Arntzen

02:22:04 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Barrett, Rep. Ebinger, Rep. Kottel, Rep. MacDonald, Rep. Roundstone, and Rep. Wilson voting aye.

02:24:36 Rep. Barrett  
02:25:01 Rep. Taylor  
02:25:21 Chairman Sonju  
02:25:39 Ms. Weiss  
02:26:00 Rep. Arntzen  
02:26:48 Rep. Vance  
02:27:07 Rep. Barrett  
02:27:22 Chairman Sonju

**ADJOURNMENT**

02:27:39 Adjournment

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Katie Butcher, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([trh38aad.pdf](#))**