

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chairman Joe Balyeat, on March 3, 2009 at 10 A.M.,
in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Joe Balyeat, Chairman (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Linda Keim, 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: HB 126, HB 159, HB 160, 2/24/2009

Executive Action: HB 126

HEARING ON HB 126

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:51 Rep. Shannon Augare (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 126, Authorize Department of Administration to determine workers' comp policy for all state agencies.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:46 Connie Welsh, Administrator, Health Care and Benefits, Department of Administration (DOA)

00:04:34 Bob Worthington, Labor Management Advisory Council (LMAC)

00:05:26 Jason Miller, LMAC

00:05:44 Nancy Butler, Montana State Fund

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:06:45 Rep. Augare

00:06:55 Sen. Keane

HEARING ON HB 159

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:07:01 Rep. Shannon Augare (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 159, Require actuarial opinion summary for domestic property and casualty insurers.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:09:22 John Mudd, Executive Counsel, State Auditors Office

00:10:13 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy arrived

00:10:16 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association, also representing Greg VanHorssen, State Farm Insurance

00:10:58 Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurers

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:11:29 Chairman Balyeat

00:12:41 Ms. Lenmark

Closing by Sponsor:

00:13:33 Sen. Augare

HEARING ON HB 160

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:14:07 Rep. Timothy Furey (D), HD 91, opened the hearing on
HB 160, Revise captive insurer laws.

[EXHIBIT \(bus47a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:19:12 John Mudd, Executive Counsel, State Auditors Office

[EXHIBIT \(bus47a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus47a03\)](#)

00:20:30 Steve Matthews, Chief Financial Examiner, State
Auditors Office

00:22:53 Bob Durand, Montana Captive Insurance Association

00:23:14 Dick Brown, President, Montana Hospital Association

Opponents' Testimony:

00:24:00 Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurance Association,
also speaking for Greg VanHorsen, State Farm Insurance

[EXHIBIT \(bus47a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus47a05\)](#)

00:27:46 Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurers

00:30:56 Bob Biskupiak, Independent Insurance Agents of Montana

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:31:49 Sen. Keane

00:32:29 Rep. Furey

00:33:02 Sen. Keane

00:34:07 John Mudd

00:34:14 Sen. Brown

00:35:56 John Mudd
00:36:15 Chairman Balyeat
00:37:15 John Mudd
00:37:30 Sen. Jackson
00:37:42 Chairman Balyeat
00:39:12 John Mudd

Closing by Sponsor:

00:40:59 Rep. Furey

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 126

00:42:16 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Keane moved that **HB 126 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously 11-0 by voice vote. Sen. Peterson, Sen. Barkus, Sen. Squires, and Sen. Windy Boy voted by proxy. Sen. Keane will carry the bill in the Senate.

00:43:23 Chairman Balyeat
00:43:36 Sen. Brown
00:43:58 Chairman Balyeat

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:44 A.M.

Linda Keim, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([bus47aad.pdf](#))