

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chairman John Esp, on March 4, 2009 at
3:00 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. John Esp, Chairman (R)
Sen. Jeff Essmann, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Leanne Heisel, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, 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 61, 2/20/2009; HB 181,
2/21/2009; HB 231, 2/23/2009; HB
273, 2/23/2009

Executive Action: HB 61 ~ DO CONCUR
HB 181 ~ DO CONCUR
HB 273 ~ DO CONCUR

Chairman Esp left the hearing and Senator Erickson assumed Chair responsibilities.

HEARING ON HB 181

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:31 Rep. Ken Peterson (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 181, Authorize design-build water and sewer districts.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:47 Richard Larsen, Billings

[EXHIBIT\(los48a01\)](#)

00:06:23 Carl Peters, Chairman, Lockwood Water and Sewer District

00:07:09 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

00:08:37 Sen. Taylor Brown, SD 22

00:09:39 L. Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:11:02 Sen. Barkus

00:11:40 Cary Hegreberg, MCA

00:13:02 Chairman Erickson

00:13:28 L. Harold Blattie, MACo

Closing by Sponsor:

00:14:44 Rep. Peterson

HEARING ON HB 273

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:16:01 Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 273, Revise costs related to search and rescue.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:19:29 Nanette Gilbertson, representing the Montana Peace
Officers' Association
00:20:11 Mike McClosky, Commander, Cascade County Search and
Rescue
00:23:22 Bob Wojciechowski, Corporal, Cascade County Search and
Rescue
00:24:52 L. Harold Blattie, MACo

00:26:36 Sen. Laslovich arrived at hearing.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:27:24 Rep. O'Hara

HEARING ON HB 61

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:29:56 Rep. Jon Sesso (D), HD 76, opened the hearing on HB 61,
Revise interlibrary program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:34:55 Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Librarian
[EXHIBIT \(los48a02\)](#)
00:39:26 Kim Crowley, Director, Flathead County Library System
[EXHIBIT \(los48a03\)](#)
00:41:02 Judy Hart, Director, Lewis & Clark Public Library
[EXHIBIT \(los48a04\)](#)
00:42:08 John Finn, Director, Hearst Free Library, Anaconda/Deer
Lodge
[EXHIBIT \(los48a05\)](#)
00:42:58 Lois Fitzpatrick, representing Montana Library
Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:44:44 Sen. Barkus
00:45:24 Darlene Staffeldt
00:47:31 Chairman Erickson
00:47:58 Darlene Staffeldt

Closing by Sponsor:

00:49:12 Due to a prior commitment and without objection from the Committee, the Sponsor was allowed to leave the hearing before official closing. Sen. Gallus volunteered to assist with questions if needed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 273

00:55:58 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Essmann moved that **HB 273 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Sen. Esp voting by proxy. Sen. Laslovich will carry HB 273.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 181

00:57:34 **Motion:** Sen. Essmann moved that **HB 181 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

00:57:42 Sen. Essmann
00:58:02 Sen. Barkus

00:59:16 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Sen. Esp voting by proxy. Sen. Taylor Brown will carry HB 181.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 61

01:00:00 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Barkus moved that **HB 61 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Sen. Esp voting by proxy. Sen. Gallus will carry HB 61.

HEARING ON HB 231

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:01:32 Rep. Bill Glaser (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 231, Revise laws on incorporation of cities and towns.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:07:10 Sen. Taylor Brown, SD 22

Opponents' Testimony:

01:11:57 Dave Galt, Director, Montana Petroleum Association
(MPA), also speaking for Mary Whittinghill, Montana
Taxpayers Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:13:27 Sen. Laslovich

01:13:43 Dave Galt, MPA

01:14:04 Sen. Essmann

01:15:25 Rep. Glaser

01:19:37 Sen. Esp returned to Committee.

01:21:05 Sen. Essmann

01:21:54 Sen. Brown

01:24:21 Sen. Barkus

01:25:14 Sen. Brown

01:26:29 Sen. Tutvedt

01:27:06 Dave Galt

01:27:59 Chairman Erickson

01:28:26 Rep. Glaser

01:30:47 Sen. Esp

01:31:02 Rep. Glaser

Closing by Sponsor:

01:31:35 Rep. Glaser

Committee Business:

01:35:53 Senator Esp assumed Chair responsibilities from Senator
Erickson.

01:35:59 Chairman Esp

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:40 P.M.

Debra Polhemus, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([los48aad.pdf](#))