

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chairwoman Elsie Arntzen, on March 5, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Elsie Arntzen, Chairwoman (R)
Rep. Betsy Hands, Vice Chairwoman (D)
Rep. Gary MacLaren, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Arlene Becker (D)
Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)
Rep. Tom Berry (R)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D)
Rep. Bob Ebinger (D)
Rep. Pat Ingraham (R)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Michael More (R)
Rep. Gordon Vance (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)

Members Absent: Rep. Scott Reichner (R)
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)
Rep. Diane Sands (D)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)

Staff Present: Katie Butcher, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, 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: SB 148, SB 255, SB 262, SB 390
Executive Action: SB 296, SB 390, HB 449, SB 255,
SB 262

00:00:00 Call to order
00:02:00 Rep. Berry

HEARING ON SB 148

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:03:02 Sen. Jim Peterson (R), SD 15, opened the hearing on
SB 148, Revise and clarify local government laws.

[EXHIBIT \(loh49a01\)](#)

(Rep. Reinhart, Rep. Stahl and Rep. Sands arrived.)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:11:00 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

[EXHIBIT \(loh49a02\)](#)

00:15:34 Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:17:54 Rep. Bennett

00:18:12 Sen. Peterson

00:19:32 Rep. Ingraham

00:20:05 Sen. Peterson

00:22:00 Rep. More

00:22:28 Sen. Peterson

00:22:40 Mr. Blattie

00:24:30 Rep. More

00:26:46 Mr. Blattie

[EXHIBIT \(loh49a03\)](#)

00:27:55 Chairwoman Arntzen

00:28:09 Mr. Blattie

(Rep. Hamilton arrived.)

Closing by Sponsor:

00:29:29 Sen. Peterson

00:30:30 Rep. Ingraham

HEARING ON SB 255

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:30:50 Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 255, Include additional forms of indebtedness in annexation of fire districts.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:32:42 Rodney Dresbach, Chief, West Valley Fire and Rescue
00:34:23 Leonard Lundby, Montana Fire Alliance
00:34:48 Richard Van Auken, Teton County Fire Chief
00:35:48 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:36:48 Rep. Ingraham
00:37:20 Sen. Tutvedt

Closing by Sponsor:

00:38:05 Sen. Tutvedt

HEARING ON SB 390

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:38:59 Sen. Dan McGee (R), SD 29, opened the hearing on SB 390, Allow local government assistance from state.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:39:58 Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Closing by Sponsor:

00:42:30 Sen. McGee
00:43:24 Break
00:44:16 Reconvene
00:44:25 Rep. Ingraham

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 296

00:45:45 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **SB 296 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Becker, Rep. Sands, Rep. Hands, Rep. Grinde, and Rep. Reichner voted by proxy. Rep. Reinhart will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 255

00:47:33 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ingraham moved that **SB 255 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Becker, Rep. Sands, Rep. Hands, Rep. Grinde, and Rep. Reichner voted by proxy. Rep. Reichner will carry the bill.

(Rep. Sands arrived.)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 390

00:48:36 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Stahl moved that **SB 390 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Becker, Rep. Hands, Rep. Grinde, and Rep. Reichner voted by proxy. Rep. Arntzen will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 449

00:50:18 **Motion:** Rep. Stahl moved that **HB 449 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

00:50:31 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division

00:53:32 **Motion:** Rep. Stahl moved that **HB 449 BE AMENDED**.

Discussion:

00:54:11 Mr. Kolman

(Rep. Reichner arrived.)

00:54:59 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
Rep. Becker, Rep Hands, and Rep. Grinde voted by proxy.

00:55:23 **Motion:** Rep. Stahl moved that **HB 449 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT (loh49a04)

Discussion:

00:56:09 Rep. Driscoll

00:56:16 Rep. Stahl

00:56:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
Rep. Becker, Rep Hands, and Rep. Grinde voted by proxy.

00:57:03 **Motion:** Rep. Stahl moved that **HB 449 DO PASS AS**
AMENDED.

Discussion:

00:57:16 Rep. Hamilton

00:57:33 Chairwoman Arntzen

00:57:41 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources

00:58:19 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-3 by voice vote with Rep.
Ingraham, Rep. MacLaren, and Rep. More voting no.
Rep. Becker, Rep Hands, and Rep. Grinde voted by proxy.

HEARING ON SB 262

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:59:34 Sen. David Wanzenried (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on
SB 262, Allow per unit assessment in water and sewer
districts.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:02:26 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

01:03:22 Robert Carter, Target Range Sewer and Water District

(Rep. Becker arrived.)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:07:06 Rep. Stahl
01:07:11 Mr. Kolman
01:07:38 Rep. Reichner
01:09:36 Mr. Carter
01:10:08 Rep. Reichner
01:10:39 Sen. Wanzenried
01:11:46 Rep. Ingraham
01:12:37 Sen. Wanzenried
01:13:10 Chairwoman Arntzen
01:13:15 Sen. Wanzenried

Closing by Sponsor:

01:13:27 Sen. Wanzenried

(Rep. Reichner left.)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 262

01:13:47 **Motion:** Rep. Stahl moved that **SB 262 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

01:14:54 Rep. Ebinger

01:15:42 Break

(Rep. Reichner returned, all members present.)

01:16:17 Reconvene

01:16:24 Rep. Reichner

01:17:26 Rep. MacLaren

01:18:04 Rep. Ingraham

01:18:23 Mr. Kolman

01:18:58 Rep. Reichner

01:19:14 Rep. Reinhart

01:20:20 Rep. Reichner

01:20:55 Ben Carter

01:21:15 Rep. Ingraham

01:21:22 Mr. Ben Carter

01:22:03 Rep. Bennett

01:22:54 Rep. Reinhart

01:23:40 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. More voting no. Rep. Reinhart will carry the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

01:24:19 Adjournment

Katie Butcher, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([loh49aad.pdf](#))