

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chair Jon Sonju, on March 7, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jon Sonju, Chairman (R)
Sen. Art Wittich, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Shannon Augare (D)
Sen. Edward Buttrey (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Alan Olson (R)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch
Kirk Lundby, 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 231, 3/2/2011; HB 380, 3/3/11; HB 426, 3/2/2011; HB 552, 3/3/11

HEARING ON HB 380

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:12 Rep. Mark Blasdel (R), HD 10, opened the hearing on HB 380, Revise laws related to water and waste water systems and districts.

EXHIBIT(los51a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:18 Steve Wade, representing Montana Rural Water Systems (MRWS)

EXHIBIT(los51a02)

00:04:50 Dennis Peppenger, representing the Gore Hill Water District

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

00:05:53 Anna Miller, representing the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:06:16 Vice Chair Wittich
00:06:35 Rep. Blasdel
00:07:00 Steve Wade, (MRWS)
00:07:55 Vice Chair Wittich
00:08:11 Steve Wade
00:09:55 Vice Chair Wittich
00:10:18 Steve Wade
00:11:02 Sen. Moss
00:11:22 Rep. Blasdel

Closing by Sponsor:

00:11:46 Rep. Blasdel

HEARING ON HB 426

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:12:27 Rep. Gary MacLaren (R), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 426, Revise incorporation laws to coincide with annexation laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:12:59 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
00:14:28 Carlotta Hecker, representing Lockwood Steering Committee (LSC)

00:14:55 Bob Riehl, (LSC)
00:15:37 Bruce MacIntyre, Director of Public Affairs, City of Billings Chamber of
Commerce
00:16:07 Sen. Taylor Brown, SD 22
00:17:07 Alec Hansen, representing Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
00:18:50 Ed Bartlett, representing Yellowstone County
00:19:28 Tom Ebzery, representing Exxon Mobile
00:20:21 Dave Galt, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)
00:21:06 Don Allen, representing Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA)
00:21:55 Haley Beaudry, representing Columbia Falls Aluminum Company
00:22:36 Don Reed, Chairman, Lockwood Steering Committee

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:23:13 Sen. Buttrey
00:23:52 Rep. MacLaren
00:24:16 Sen. Buttrey
00:24:33 Rep. MacLaren
00:25:00 Alec Hansen, (MLCT)
00:26:04 Sen. Moss
00:26:21 Rep. MacLaren
00:26:31 Alec Hansen
00:27:16 Chairman Sonju
00:27:30 Alec Hansen
00:28:20 Chairman Sonju
00:28:23 Alec Hansen

Closing by Sponsor:

00:28:59 Rep. MacLaren

HEARING ON HB 231

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:31:08 Rep. Randy Brodehl (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 231, Repeal
requirements for municipalities to hire career paid firefighters.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:34:42 Rep. Ron Ehli, HD 88

00:37:36 Gilbert Moore, representing Central Valley Fire District of Gallatin County (CVFD)

00:40:03 Ed Bartlett, representing City of Billings

EXHIBIT(los51a03)

00:40:38 Bob Drake, Chief, Tri-Lakes Fire Department

Opponents' Testimony:

00:44:55 Joseph Sands, representing Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters (SCPF)

00:51:51 Jeffrey Miller, Chief, Butte-Silverbow Fire Department

00:53:50 Kurt Bushnell, representing Montana State Fireman's Association (MSFA)

EXHIBIT(los51a04)

00:53:51 Sen. Olson entered the committee room

00:55:49 Roxanne Minnehan, Executive Director, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (PERA)

01:02:50 Ed Cleary, President, (MSFA)

EXHIBIT(los51a05)

01:03:26 Greg Daenzer, representing City of Kalispell Fire Department

EXHIBIT(los51a06)

01:04:08 Chris Cavazos, representing Montana American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

01:04:59 Terry Minow, representing the Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT)

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:05:38 Sen. Gallus

01:06:13 Rep. Brodehl

01:07:12 Sen. Gallus

01:07:26 Chairman Sonju

01:07:31 Vice Chair Wittich

01:08:52 Gilbert Moore, (CVFD)

01:09:26 Vice Chair Sonju

01:10:01 Gilbert Moore

01:10:11 Sen. Moss

01:11:00 Joseph Sands, (SCPF)

01:12:07 Sen. Moss

01:12:33 Joseph Sands

01:12:45 Sen. Moss

01:13:17 Rep. Brodehl

01:13:49 Chairman Sonju

01:14:03 Roxanne Minnehan, (PERA)

01:14:13 Chairman Sonju

01:14:36 Roxanne Minnehan

01:15:03 Vice Chair Wittich

01:15:56 Rep. Brodehl

Closing by Sponsor:

01:16:27 Rep. Brodehl

[EXHIBIT\(los51a07\)](#)

HEARING ON HB 552

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:21:49 Rep. Alan Hale (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 552, Provide workers' comp to volunteer firefighters and EMS workers.

[EXHIBIT\(los51a08\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

- 01:23:38 Dede Rhodes, representing Basin Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD)
- 01:27:54 Bud Siderits, Chief, Jefferson City Fire Department (JCFD)
- 01:31:48 Dean Hall, representing Baxendale Fire Department
- 01:32:30 David Cooper, President, (JCFD)
- 01:33:35 Leonard Lundby, representing Montana Fire Alliance (MFA)
- 01:34:56 Tom Lythgoe, Commissioner, Jefferson County Commission (JCC)
- 01:36:28 Jason Miller, representing Labor Management Advisory Council (LMAC)
- 01:37:24 Bob Worthington, (LMAC)
- 01:39:14 Ashley Blake, (JCFD)

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

- 01:39:32 Jerry Keck, representing Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
- 01:39:50 Nancy Butler, representing Montana State Fund (MSF)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

- 01:40:21 Vice Chair Wittich
- 01:41:45 Nancy Butler, (MSF)
- 01:42:49 Vice Chair Wittich
- 01:43:18 Nancy Butler
- 01:44:17 Chairman Sonju
- 01:44:24 Nancy Butler
- 01:44:55 Sen. Moss
- 01:45:25 Tom Lythgoe, (JCC)
- 01:46:00 Vice Chair Wittich
- 01:47:09 Rep. Hale
- 01:47:39 Nancy Butler
- 01:48:35 Vice Chair Wittich

01:49:30 Nancy Butler
01:49:39 Vice Chair Wittich
01:49:43 Nancy Butler (MSF)
01:50:25 Chairman Sonju
01:51:05 Nancy Butler
01:51:51 Bob Worthington (LMAC)
01:53:26 Vice Chair Wittich
01:53:44 Bob Worthington
01:54:57 Vice Chair Wittich
01:55:02 Bob Worthington
01:55:34 Sen. Olson
01:55:52 Bob Worthington
01:56:23 Tom Lythgoe, (JCC)
01:56:42 Sen. Olson
01:56:58 Tom Lythgoe
01:57:47 Sen. Olson
01:57:49 Rep. Hale
01:58:12 Sen. Olson
01:58:37 Dede Rhodes, (BVFD)
02:01:44 Sen. Olson
02:02:06 Dede Rhodes

Closing by Sponsor:

02:02:31 Rep. Hale

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
02:03:11

Kirk Lundby, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([los51aad.pdf](#))