

## MINUTES

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Jon Sonju, on March 16, 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. Alan Olson (R)

##### **Members Excused:**

Sen. Lynda Moss (D)  
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 123, 3/10/2011; HB 211, 3/10/2011; HB 212,  
3/10/2011; HB 538, 3/8/2011

**HEARING ON HB 538**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:45 Rep. Ken Peterson (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 538, Providing for sale of bonds at public or private sale.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:08 Dan Semmens, representing Montana Division of Dorsey & Whitney, LLP, Missoula  
00:03:58 Aaron Rudio, representing D.A. Davidson Company  
00:05:33 Gordon Morris, representing Lewis and Clark County Commissioners  
00:05:52 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
00:06:31 Alec Hansen, representing Montana League of Cities and Town (MLCT)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:07:08 Sen. Olson  
00:07:29 Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
00:07:57 Vice Chair Wittich  
00:09:09 Dan Semmens, Dorsey & Whitney  
00:10:52 Sen. Olson left the committee room  
00:11:25 Sen. Moss entered the committee room  
00:13:16 Vice Chair Wittich  
00:14:15 Dan Semmens  
00:15:26 Chairman Sonju turned chair duties over to Vice Chair Wittich and left the committee room

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:17:17 Rep. Peterson

**HEARING ON HB 123**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:19:39 Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 123, Revise county and school district budgeting timelines.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:22:04 Harold Blattie, MACo

**EXHIBIT(los59a01)**

00:25:06 Mary Ellen Fitzgerald, Superintendent of Schools, Gallatin County

00:28:33 Marsha Davis, Superintendent of Schools, Lewis and Clark County

00:29:35 Bob Vogel, representing Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

00:29:51 Sen. Vuckovich entered the committee room

00:31:22 Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)

00:33:10 Alan Peura, Deputy Director, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**EXHIBIT(los59a02)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:40:18 Denise Ulberg, representing Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:40:54 Sen. Moss

00:41:10 Denise Ulberg, OPI

00:42:13 Sen. Moss

00:42:29 Harold Blattie, MACo

00:44:07 Sen. Moss

00:44:15 Harold Blattie

00:44:56 Sen. Vuckovich

00:45:39 Harold Blattie

00:47:37 Vice Chair Wittich

00:48:26 Allen Peura, DOR

00:48:59 Sen. Gallus left the committee room

00:51:39 Vice Chair Wittich

00:51:43 Allen Peura

00:52:28 Vice Chair Wittich

00:52:54 Mary Ellen Fitzgerald, Gallatin County

00:53:25 Vice Chair Wittich

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:53:41 Rep. McClafferty

**HEARING ON HB 211**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:55:11 Rep. Pat Ingraham (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 211, Revise laws relating to municipal general obligation bonds.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:59:49 Alec Hansen, MLCT

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:03:37 Sen. Buttrey  
01:03:54 Alec Hansen  
01:05:04 Sen. Buttrey  
01:05:16 Alec Hansen  
01:05:39 Vice Chair Wittich  
01:06:13 Rep. Ingraham  
01:07:09 Vice Chair Wittich  
01:07:22 Rep. Ingraham

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:07:30 Rep. Ingraham

**HEARING ON HB 212**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:09:04 Rep. Pat Ingraham (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 212, Eliminate county classification.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:12:19 Harold Blattie, MACo  
[EXHIBIT\(los59a03\)](#)  
01:17:01 Sen. Gallus left the committee room  
01:17:05 Sen. Buttrey left the committee room

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:17:44 Sen. Vuckovich  
01:18:02 Harold Blattie, MACo  
01:18:22 Sen. Vuckovich  
01:19:04 Harold Blattie

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:20:21 Rep. Ingraham  
01:21:14 Vice Chair Wittich

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:  
01:21:45

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Kirk Lundby, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los59aad.pdf](#))**