

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Priest, on March 18, 2013 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Jason Priest, Chair (R)  
Sen. Terry Murphy, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mary Caferro (D)  
Sen. David E. Wanzonried (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)  
Sen. Fred Thomas (R)  
Sen. Art Wittich (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Julie Emge, Committee Secretary  
Alexis Sandru, 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: SR 21, 3/15/2013; HB 544, 3/12/2013; HB 473, 3/11/2013

Executive Action: SR 21, Be Adopted

**HEARING ON HB 473**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:14:12 Rep. Scott Reichner (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 473, Revise medical lien laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:16:35 Jessie Luther, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)  
00:18:50 Mark Baker, representing Kalispell Regional Healthcare (KRH)  
00:19:53 Tom Ebzery, representing Catholic Hospitals of Montana (CHM), Billings Clinic (BC)  
00:20:54 Gary Spaeth, representing Optometrists & Podiatrists  
00:21:23 Kiely Keane, Montana Medical Association (MMA)  
00:21:47 Don Miller, Community Medical Center (CMC)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:22:16 Erik Thueson, representing himself  
00:30:33 Jamie Carey, President, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)  
  
00:33:02 Sen. Jergeson entered the hearing.  
  
00:34:49 Al Smith, representing Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)  
00:39:46 Bruce Spencer, Property Casualty Insurance Association (PCIA), State Farm Insurance (SFI), American Insurance Association (AIA)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:41:12 Sen. Wanzenried  
00:43:04 Mr. Miller, CMC  
00:43:36 Sen. Wanzenried  
00:44:49 Mr. Thuesen, self

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:45:23 Rep. Reichner

**HEARING ON HB 544**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:46:26 Rep. Scott Reichner (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 544, Revising insurance provisions related to provider networks.

**[EXHIBIT\(phs58a01\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:50:01 Frank Cote, representing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT)  
00:53:59 Adam Schafer, Office of the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, State Auditor (CSI)  
00:54:35 Kiely Keane, Montana Medical Association (MMA)  
00:55:40 Bruce Spencer, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)  
00:57:04 Todd Lovshin, Vice President, Montana Regional Director, PacificSource Health Plans (PSHP)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:58:08 Chairman Priest  
01:00:43 Mr. Cote, BCBSMT

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:01:15 Rep. Reichner

**Additional Discussion:**

01:02:19 Chairman Priest  
01:02:25 Sen. Wanzenried  
01:02:41 Rep. Reichner

**HEARING ON SR 21**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:03:32 Sen. Jason Priest (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SR 21, Confirm Governor's appointment for director of DPHHS.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:04:52 Richard Opper, representing himself  
01:11:39 Tom Ebzery, representing himself  
01:13:08 Kiely Keane, Montana Medical Association (MMA)  
01:13:33 Kathy McGowan, American Cancer Society (ACS), Cancer Action Network (CAN), Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC), Montana Advocates for Children (MAC)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:14:52 Sen. Murphy

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:15:51 Sen. Priest

**Committee Business:**

01:16:35 Chairman Priest

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 21**

01:17:17 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Priest moved that **SR 21 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried 5-0 by voice vote. Sen. Thomas and Sen. Wittich were excused.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:04 pm

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Julie Emge, Secretary

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**Additional Document**

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([phs58aad.pdf](#))**