

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Call to Order: Chair Terry Murphy, on March 19, 2013 at 8:30 AM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Terry Murphy, Chair (R)
Sen. Scott Sales, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Shannon Augare (D)
Sen. Anders Blewett (D)
Sen. Scott Boulanger (R)
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
Sen. Larry Jent (D)
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: Sen. John Brenden (R), Sen. Robyn Driscoll (D), Sen. Art Wittich (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Branch
Pam Schindler, 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 229, 3/4/2013; HB 438, 3/6/2013; HB 485, 3/11/2013; HB 385, 3/12/2013, HB 497, 3/15/13

HEARING ON HB 438**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:23:38 Rep. Nancy Ballance (R), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 438, Establish procedures for landlord tenant actions in justice court.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:24:44 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
00:25:41 Bill Staffeldt, Vice President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
00:26:08 William Semenza, President, Lewis and Clark County/Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
00:26:19 Bill Louis, State President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
00:26:31 Jeff Strong, self, Bozeman, Montana
00:27:29 Sharon Lodge, self, President, Bozeman Landlords Association (BLA), Bozeman, Montana
00:28:52 Kriss Wolf, self, Gallatin County, Montana
00:29:42 Cleora Lodge, self, Bozeman, Montana
00:30:03 Mickey Zwagerman, self, Bozeman, Montana
00:30:31 Amy Fisher, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:31:11 Amy Hall, Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:31:54 Sen. Vincent
00:32:17 Ms. Hall, MLSA

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a01\)](#)

00:37:18 Sen. Boulanger
00:37:54 Ms. Hall

Closing by Sponsor:

00:38:05 Rep. Ballance

HEARING ON HB 229**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:39:43 Rep. Scott Reichner (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 229, Generally revise laws related to campaign finance limits and maximums.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:44:46 Sean McQuillan, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
00:46:16 Rebecca Barger, Montana Democratic Womens Caucus (MTDWC)

Informational Testimony:

00:46:49 Mary Baker, Program Supervisor, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP),
State of Montana
00:47:10 Julie Steab, Investigator, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP), State of
Montana

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:47:26 Sen. Fielder
00:48:18 Ms. Baker, COPP
00:49:26 Rep. Reichner

Closing by Sponsor:

00:50:02 Rep. Scott Reichner

HEARING ON HB 385**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:53:43 Rep. Steve Lavin (R), HD 8, opened the hearing on HB 385, Revise landlord
tenant laws regarding tenant action that may harm premises.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:55:32 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
00:57:45 Bill Staffeldt, Vice President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
00:59:19 Jeff Strong, self, Bozeman, Montana
01:00:55 Kriss Wolf, self, Gallatin County, Montana
01:02:29 Mickey Zwagerman, self, Bozeman, Montana
01:03:08 Sharon Lodge, self, President, Bozeman Landlords Association (BLA),
Bozeman, Montana
01:04:14 Bill Louis, State President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
01:06:05 William Semenza, President, Lewis and Clark County/Montana Landlords
Association (MLA)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:06:55 Sen. Fielder
01:07:22 Rep. Lavin

Closing by Sponsor:

01:07:36 Rep. Lavin

01:07:50 Amy Hall, Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA)
(Please note: Ms. Hall did not testify, she just handed in her testimony)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a02\)](#)

HEARING ON HB 485

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:08:17 Rep. Steve Lavin (R), HD 8, opened the hearing on HB 485, Revise landlord tenant laws to expand Justice Court jurisdiction.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:09:20 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)

01:10:18 Bill Staffeldt, Vice President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)

01:11:08 Sharon Lodge, President, Bozeman Landlords Association (BLA), Bozeman, Montana

01:11:49 Bill Louis, State President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

01:12:14 Rep. Lavin

HEARING ON HB 497

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:13:15 Rep. Kerry White (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 497, Restrict certain municipal ordinance penalties.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:15:09 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a08\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(jus59a09\)](#)

01:18:57 Bill Staffeldt, Vice President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)

01:22:52 Kriss Wolf, self, Gallatin County, Montana

EXHIBIT(jus59a10)

01:28:43 Amy Fisher, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

01:30:31 Jeff Strong, self, Bozeman, Montana

01:32:21 Mickey Zwagerman, self, Bozeman, Montana

01:32:38 Bill Louis, State President, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)

01:33:48 Ed Nordby, self, Bozeman, Montana

01:37:50 Cleora Lodge, self, Bozeman, Montana

01:38:01 Sharon Lodge, President, Bozeman Landlords Association (BLA), Bozeman, Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

01:39:26 Ron Price, Chief of Police, Bozeman Police Department (BPD), Bozeman, Montana

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:45:51 Sen. Fielder

01:45:15 Chief Price, BPD

01:48:15 Sen. Blewett

01:49:05 Chief Price

01:49:39 Sen. Boulanger

01:50:19 Chief Price

01:50:50 Mr. Sinrud, MLA

01:53:53 Sen. Fielder

01:54:42 Rep. White

01:56:31 Sen. Larsen

01:58:07 Mr. Sinrud

01:59:46 Sen. Larsen

02:00:13 Chief Price

02:01:10 Sen. Blewett

02:02:20 Chief Price

Closing by Sponsor:

02:03:20 Rep. White

Committee Business

02:06:55 Chairman Murphy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:18 A.M.

Pam Schindler, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

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EXHIBIT([jus59aad.pdf](#))