

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: Chair Jeff Essmann, on January 22, 2015 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 455
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Jeff Essmann, Chair (R)
Rep. Bill Harris, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Casey Schreiner, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Bryce Bennett (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Frank Garner (R)
Rep. Edward Greef (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)
Rep. Jessica Karjala (D)
Rep. Debra Lamm (R)
Rep. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Jean Price (D)
Rep. Ray L. Shaw (R)
Rep. Kathy Swanson (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
Rep. Susan Webber (D)
Rep. Art Wittich (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jennifer Petersen, Committee Secretary
Sheri Scurr, 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: HB 86, 1/13/2015; HB 126, 1/13/2015; HB 131, 1/13/2015; HB
198, 1/13/2015

00:00:01 Chair Essmann

HEARING ON HB 86

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:24 Rep. Geraldine Custer (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB 86, Revising the date absentee ballots are available in certain elections.

EXHIBIT(sth14a01)

00:02:47 *Rep. Wittich arrives*

00:05:11 Chair Essmann

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:21 Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State (SOS)

EXHIBIT(sth14a02)

00:07:17 Bret Rutherford, Election Administrator, Yellowstone County and President, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders and Election Officials

00:08:20 Chair Essmann

00:08:27 Joy Bruck, AARP Montana

EXHIBIT(sth14a03)

00:09:35 Chair Essmann

00:09:38 Charlotte Mills, Clerk and Recorder and Election Administrator for Gallatin County

00:11:11 Chair Essmann

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimon: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:11:28 Rep. Wittich
00:13:01 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:14:46 Rep. Funk
00:15:20 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:15:39 Rep. Funk
00:15:50 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:15:55 Rep. Garner
00:16:24 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:17:00 Rep. Garner
00:17:21 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:18:23 Rep. McKamey
00:18:41 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:19:17 Rep. McKamey
00:19:28 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:20:33 Rep. McKamey
00:21:06 Charlotte Mills, Gallatin County
00:22:10 Rep. Schreiner
00:22:42 Rep. Custer
00:23:01 Rep. Karjala

00:23:24 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County and Montana Association of Clerks and
Recorders and Election Officials
00:24:04 Rep. Karjala
00:24:29 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County and Montana Association of Clerks and
Recorders and Election Officials
00:25:48 Rep. B. Brown
00:26:32 Rep. Custer
00:27:09 Rep. B. Brown
00:27:16 Rep. Custer
00:27:29 Rep. Wittich
00:27:59 Rep. Custer
00:28:12 Rep. Wittich
00:28:33 Rep. Custer
00:29:06 Chair Essmann
00:29:47 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County and Montana Association of Clerks and
Recorders and Election Officials
00:31:00 Chair Essmann
00:31:17 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County and Montana Association of Clerks and
Recorders and Election Officials
00:32:09 Chair Essmann
00:32:30 Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County and Montana Association of Clerks and
Recorders and Election Officials
00:32:59 Rep. Mandeville
00:33:38 Rep. Custer
00:34:08 Chair Essmann
00:34:18 Rep. Wittich
00:35:50 Chair Essmann
00:36:17 Sheri Scurr, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
00:36:57 Chair Essmann

Closing by Sponsor:

00:37:04 Rep. Custer
00:37:59 Chair Essmann

HEARING ON HB 198

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:38:13 Rep. Keith Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 198, Revise election
laws related to names on the ballot.

[EXHIBIT\(sth14a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth14a05\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:41:00 Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State (SOS)

[EXHIBIT\(sth14a06\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:42:30 Chair Essmann
 00:43:06 Linda McCulloch, SOS
 00:43:28 Chair Essmann
 00:43:48 Linda McCulloch, SOS
 00:43:57 Chair Essmann

Closing by Sponsor:

00:44:07 Rep. Regier
 00:44:26 Chair Essmann

HEARING ON HB 126**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:44:47 Rep. Rae Peppers (D), HD 41, opened the hearing on HB 126, Revise burial preservation board member compensation laws.
 00:45:56 Chair Essmann

Proponents' Testimony:

00:46:04 Mike Manion, Department of Administration (DOA)
 00:48:16 *Rep. Shaw leaves*
 00:51:39 Chair Essmann
 00:51:49 Dr. Ruthan Knudson, Burial Preservation Board
 00:53:36 Chair Essmann
 00:53:45 Marilyn Silva, Burial Preservation Board
 00:56:03 Chair Essmann
 00:56:16 Patty Stevens, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

[EXHIBIT\(sth14a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(sth14a08\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:59:32 Rep. B. Brown
 01:00:15 Rep. Peppers
 01:00:22 Dr. Knudson, Burial Preservation Board
 01:01:13 Rep. B. Brown
 01:01:54 Dr. Knudson, Burial Preservation Board
 01:02:29 Chair Essmann
 01:02:54 Rep. Wittich
 01:03:49 Mike Manion, DOA
 01:04:00 Dr. Knudson, Burial Preservation Board
 01:05:31 Rep. Schreiner
 01:05:53 Rep. Peppers
 01:06:06 Rep. Lamm
 01:06:32 Mike Manion, DOA
 01:06:34 Rep. Lamm

01:06:42 Mike Manion, DOA

01:06:56 Chair Essmann

Closing by Sponsor:

01:07:02 Rep. Peppers

01:07:15 Chair Essmann

HEARING ON HB 131

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:07:29 Rep. Ellie Boldman Hill (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HB 131, Revise election reporting period requirements.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:10:00 Jonathan Motl, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

EXHIBIT(sth14a09)

01:15:05 Chair Essmann

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:15:31 Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State (SOS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:15:37 Chair Essmann

01:17:10 Jonathan Motl, COPP

01:18:16 Chair Essmann

01:18:38 Mary Baker, Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

01:21:02 Rep. Lamm

01:21:43 Mary Baker, COPP

01:22:27 Rep. Lamm

01:22:37 Mary Baker, COPP

01:23:41 Rep. Lamm

01:23:49 Mary Baker, COPP

01:23:58 Rep. Lamm

01:24:16 Rep. Hill

01:24:45 Rep. Garner

01:24:51 Chair Essmann

01:26:29 Rep. Hill

01:28:06 Rep. Schreiner

01:28:26 Rep. Hill

01:29:02 Rep. Schreiner

01:29:26 Mary Baker, COPP

01:30:05 Chair Essmann

Closing by Sponsor:

01:30:11 Rep. Hill

01:30:19 Chair Essmann

01:30:29 Rep. Hill

01:31:05 Chair Essmann
01:34:40 Rep. McKamey
01:34:44 Chair Essmann

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 01:35:14

Jennifer Petersen, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sth14aad.pdf](#))