

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Mike Lang, on March 27, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Lang, Chair (R)
Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Tom Berry (R)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)
Rep. David (Doc) Moore (R)
Rep. Zac Perry (D)
Rep. Andrew Person (D)
Rep. Randall Pinocci (R)
Rep. Christopher Pope (D)
Rep. Tom Richmond (R)
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)
Rep. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Tom Steenberg, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jessica Riffel, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

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 638, 3/25/2015

Executive Action: SJ 12, SB 312, HB 632, HB 638

00:00:03 Chairman Lang

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 12

00:02:12 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SJ 12 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 12-3 by roll call vote with Rep. Person, Rep. Pinocci and Rep. Zolnikov voting no. Rep. Knudsen and Rep. Steenberg voted by proxy. Rep. Schreiner will carry the bill.

00:03:38 Rep. Pope

00:03:53 Rep. Steenberg entered

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 312

00:04:06 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 312 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

00:04:19 Chairman Lang

00:04:25 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

00:04:51 Chairman Lang

00:05:10 Hope Stockwell, LSD

[EXHIBIT\(feh64a01\)](#)

00:07:22 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 312 BE AMENDED**.

Discussion:

00:07:39 Rep. Steenberg

00:08:01 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-0 by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen was excused.

00:08:10 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 312 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 14-1 by voice vote with Rep. D. Moore voting no. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy. Rep. Steenberg will carry the bill.

00:08:50 Chairman Lang

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 632

00:09:53 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 632 DO PASS**.

00:10:08 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Berry made a substitute motion that **HB 632 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy.

HEARING ON HB 638

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:11:33 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 638, Eliminate certain automatic utility rate adjustments.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:14:53 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

00:20:37 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)

Informational Testimony:

00:22:05 Jorge Quintana, Secretary of State (SOS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:22:37 Rep. Schreiner

00:22:53 Jorge Quintana, SOS

00:23:38 Rep. Schreiner

00:23:53 Rep. Woods

00:24:03 Rep. Schreiner

00:24:24 Rep. Woods

00:25:09 Rep. Custer

Closing by Sponsor:

00:25:21 Rep. Woods

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 638

00:27:17 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 638 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

00:27:28 Chairman Lang

00:27:40 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Welborn made a substitute motion that **HB 638 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion failed 7-8 by roll call vote with Rep. Berry, Rep. Lang, Rep. Lynch, Rep. D. Moore, Rep. Richmond, Rep. Steenberg and Rep. Welborn voting aye. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy.

00:29:22 Rep. Moore

00:29:38 Rep. Berry

00:29:49 Rep. Custer

00:30:53 Rep. Person

00:31:22 Rep. Pope

00:31:50 Chairman Lang

00:32:07 **Vote:** Motion failed 2-13 by roll call vote with Rep. Pinocci and Rep. Zolnikov voting aye. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy.

00:33:17 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 638 BE TABLED**. Motion carried 14-0 by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen was excused.

00:33:29 Chairman Lang

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 00:33:44

Jessica Riffel, Secretary

jr

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh64aad.pdf](#))