

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Bob Lake, on February 16, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, 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 678, 2/13/2007; HB 701, 2/9/2007
Executive Action: None

Discussion:

00:01:18 Rep. Cohenour
00:01:35 Chairman Lake
00:01:57 Rep. Jopek
00:03:15 Chairman Lake
00:03:25 Rep. Cohenour
00:03:45 Rep. Grinde
00:04:01 Chairman Lake
00:04:16 Rep. Cohenour
00:04:35 Rep. Sonju
00:05:02 Rep. Cohenour
00:06:29 Chairman Lake
00:06:35 Rep. Jopek
00:06:46 Chairman Lake
00:06:58 Rep. Glaser
00:07:58 Rep. Cohenour
00:08:06 Rep. Bergren
00:08:29 Rep. Cohenour
00:08:59 Rep. Jopek
00:09:37 Chairman Lake
00:10:09 Rep. Jopek
00:10:57 Chairman Lake
00:11:10 Rep. Cohenour
00:11:17 Rep. Sonju
00:11:31 Rep. Jopek
00:11:55 Rep. Grinde
00:12:19 Rep. Glaser
00:13:32 Rep. Cohenour
00:14:24 Chairman Lake
00:14:59 Rep. Jopek
00:16:01 Chairman Lake
00:16:21 Rep. Cohenour
00:16:29 Chairman Lake

HEARING ON HB 701

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:17:23 Rep. Bill Glaser (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 701, Generally revise school funding.

[EXHIBIT \(tah35a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah35a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah35a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah35a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah35a05\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:43:51 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association

EXHIBIT (tah35a06)

00:55:18 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

01:02:09 Gary Griffith, Monfort School District Trustee

01:12:32 Lynda Brannon, representing Montana Association of Business Officials and Indian Impact Schools

01:19:09 Carol Bellin, Missoula parent, PTA member, and school reading tutor in two Missoula elementary schools

01:23:17 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Opponents' Testimony:

01:23:57 Dave Ewer, Budget Director, Governor's Office, also speaking for Governor Brian Schweitzer

01:30:02 Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff to Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction

01:38:08 Rep. Cohenour (comment only)

01:38:27 Pete Carparelli, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

01:45:22 Tom Bilodeau, Research Director, Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA/MFT)

01:50:08 Darrell Rud, School Administrators of Montana

01:51:57 Bruce Messinger, Superintendent of Schools, Helena Schools District

Informational Testimony:

01:57:30 Jim Standaert, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:57:46 Rep. Cohenour

01:58:36 Jim Standaert

01:59:32 Rep. Ross

02:00:38 Madalyn Quinlan

02:02:05 Rep. Ross

02:02:15 Rep. Lambert

02:03:39 Rep. Glaser

02:06:45 Rep. Jopek

02:07:48 David Ewer

02:09:02 Rep. Jopek

02:09:11 David Ewer

01:12:01 Rep. Jopek

02:12:18 Madalyn Quinlan

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (Con't)

02:14:38 Rep. Jopek
02:14:59 Lynda Brannon
02:17:18 Rep. Jopek
02:18:22 Rep. Glaser
02:24:45 Rep. Sonju
02:25:20 David Ewer
02:26:19 Rep. Sonju
02:26:50 Rep. Grinde
02:27:35 Rep. Glaser
02:28:43 Rep. Grinde
02:29:01 Rep. Glaser
02:32:20 Rep. Erickson
02:33:16 Madalyn Quinlan
02:35:46 Rep. Erickson
02:37:16 Chairman Lake

02:37:26 Break
02:48:19 Reconvene

02:49:14 Chairman Lake will hold open the discussion portion of the hearing on HB 701 which is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd.

HEARING ON HB 678**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:50:09 Rep. Michael Lange (R), HD 55, opened the hearing on HB 678, Revise school funding and tax laws.

[EXHIBIT \(tah35a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah35a08\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

03:03:19 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Opponents' Testimony:

03:05:58 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association

EXHIBIT (tah35a09)

03:10:52 Dan Bucks, Director, Department of Revenue

EXHIBIT (tah35a10)

03:20:06 Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, representing Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction

03:21:22 Mike Boysza, representing Carpenter's Union Local 153 and Local 557

EXHIBIT (tah35a11)

03:23:22 Tom Bilodeau, Research Director, Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA/MFT)

03:24:26 Pete Carparelli, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

Informational Testimony:

03:25:23 Jim Standaert, Legislative Fiscal Division

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:25:39 Rep. Butcher

03:31:41 Rep. Nooney

03:34:56 Rep. McAlpin

03:36:48 Rep. Hilbert

03:37:50 Rep. Cohenour

03:40:26 Rep. Erickson

03:42:23 Rep. Jopek

03:43:28 Chairman Lake

03:43:34 Rep. Cohenour

03:44:03 Rep. Jopek

03:45:40 Jim Standaert

03:46:25 Rep. Cohenour

03:47:46 Rep. Sonju

03:50:40 Rep. Jopek

03:52:22 Rep. Cohenour

03:55:47 Chairman Lake will hold open the discussion portion of the hearing on HB 678 which is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd.

Discussion:

03:56:00 Rep. Michael Lange
03:56:27 Rep. Cohenour
03:56:51 Chairman Lake
03:57:07 Rep. Erickson
03:57:19 Rep. Cohenour
03:58:42 Rep. Lange

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 P.M.

REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah35aad.pdf](#))