

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: Chairman Wanda Grinde, on February 18, 2009 at
3:00 P.M., in Room 137 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Wanda Grinde, Chairman (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Robin Hamilton, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Russell Bean (R)
Rep. Paul Beck (D)
Rep. Joel Boniek (R)
Rep. Dee Brown (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. John Fleming (D)
Rep. Bob Lake (R)
Rep. Sue Malek (D)
Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Rep. Ted Washburn (R)
Rep. Franke Wilmer (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Rep. Frosty Boss Ribs (D)
Rep. Bob Wagner (R)

Staff Present: Debbie Carlson, Committee Secretary
Jeremy Gersovitz, 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 468, 2/12/2009; HB 512,
2/12/2009; HB 513, 2/12/2009; HB
514, 2/12/2009; HB 555, 2/12/2009

Executive Action: HB 15, HB 604, HB 539, HB 468

00:00:01 Chairman Grinde

HEARING ON HB 512

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:34 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on HB 512, Carry over of school district general fund balances.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:33 David Fern, Chairman, Whitefish School Board, Director of Montana High School Association
00:04:06 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association
00:07:10 Dan Martin, Central Administrator, Billings Public Schools
00:10:01 Linda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business Officials
00:11:09 Ron Whitmire, Superintendent of Schools, East Helena
00:12:35 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association

Opponents' Testimony:

00:12:55 Tom Bilodeau, Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers

Informational Testimony:

00:17:34 Jim Standeart, Legislative Fiscal Division

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:19:09 Rep. Washburn
00:19:39 Mr. Martin
00:21:30 Rep. Bean
00:22:15 Mr. Standeart
00:22:41 Rep. Bean
00:23:07 Mr. Standeart
00:23:30 Rep. Wagner
00:23:53 Rep. Cohenour
00:24:53 Rep. Wagner
00:24:59 Rep. Cohenour
00:26:39 Rep. Brown

Closing by Sponsor:

00:27:19 Rep. Cohenour

HEARING ON HB 468

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:27:55 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on
HB 468, Allow hunter education to be taught in public
schools.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:29:37 Ron Aashiem, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
00:30:57 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association
00:31:17 Dave Fern, Whitefish School Board Association
00:31:49 Ron Whitmire, Superintendent of East Helena Schools

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:32:31 Rep. Butcher
00:32:46 Rep. Cohenour
00:33:31 Rep. Butcher
00:33:42 Rep. Cohenour
00:34:22 Rep. Bean
00:34:49 Rep. Cohenour
00:35:39 Rep. Butcher
00:36:09 Rep. Cohenour
00:36:31 Rep. Fleming
00:36:49 Rep. Cohenour
00:37:24 Rep. Lake
00:38:15 Rep. Cohenour
00:38:54 Rep. Lake

Closing by Sponsor:

00:39:09 Rep. Cohenour

HEARING ON HB 513

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:40:12 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on
HB 513, Revise school district bonding capacity.

[EXHIBIT](#)(edh38a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:42:51 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association

00:45:46 Dave Fern, Whitefish School Board

00:47:06 Callen Alger, Montana Rural Education Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:47:40 Rep. Bean

00:48:20 Mr. Vogel

Closing by Sponsor:

00:48:37 Rep. Cohenour

HEARING ON HB 514

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:49:18 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on
HB 514, Exempt school districts from fuel taxes.

[EXHIBIT](#)(edh38a02)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:53:10 Mr. Fern

00:55:20 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association

[EXHIBIT](#)(edh38a03)

00:58:22 Callen Alger, Montana Rural Educators Association

00:58:40 Linda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business
Officials

00:59:05 Bob Gilbert, Montana School Bus Drivers Association

01:01:07 Jeff Hindoien, Legal Counsel, Helena School District

Opponents' Testimony:

01:02:56 Spook Stang, Montana Motor Carriers Association
Letter from David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of the
Governor

EXHIBIT (edh38a04)

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:06:50 Rep. Washburn
01:07:34 Rep. Cohenour
01:07:59 Rep. Washburn
01:08:10 Rep. Cohenour
01:08:19 Mr. Gilbert
01:08:46 Rep. Lake
01:09:01 Mr. Gilbert
01:09:21 Rep. Lake
01:09:26 Mr. Gilbert
01:09:43 Rep. Fleming
01:10:21 Mr. Melton
01:11:54 Rep. Brown
01:12:14 Mr. Melton
01:12:30 Rep. Brown
01:12:50 Mr. Stang
01:14:38 Rep. Butcher
01:15:31 Mr. Melton
01:15:42 Rep. Butcher
01:16:17 Mr. Melton
01:16:35 Rep. Butcher
01:16:45 Mr. Melton

Closing by Sponsor:

01:16:55 Rep. Cohenour

HEARING ON HB 555

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:18:01 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on
HB 555, Allow any school board member to chair board.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:22:03 Dave Fern, Whitefish, Montana
01:23:30 Callen Alger, Montana Rural Educators Association
01:23:48 Dan Martin, Billings Public Schools

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:25:14 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association
[EXHIBIT](#)(edh38a05)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:29:16 Rep. Washburn
01:29:42 Mr. Melton
01:31:08 Rep. Beck
01:31:29 Mr. Melton
01:32:32 Rep. Bean
01:32:50 Mr. Melton

Closing by Sponsor:

01:33:08 Rep. Cohenour
01:34:24 Rep. Grinde
01:34:45 Rep. Bean

01:34:55 Break
01:51:39 Reconvene

01:51:40 Chairman Grinde

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 604

01:51:54 **Motion:** Rep. Hamilton moved **HB 604 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

01:52:13 Rep. Bean
01:52:31 Rep. Beck
01:52:51 Rep. Hamilton

01:53:46 **Vote:** Vote failed 16-2 by voice vote with Reps. Grinde
and Hamilton voting aye.

01:54:12 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Butcher moved that **HB 604 BE TABLED.**
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 539

01:54:48 **Motion:** Rep. Brown moved **HB 539 DO PASS.**

01:55:03 **Motion:** Rep. Bean moved **TO AMEND HB 539.**
[EXHIBIT](#)(edh38a06)

Discussion:

01:58:43 Chairman Grinde
 01:59:29 Rep. Fleming
 02:01:27 Rep. Wilmer
 02:03:17 Rep. Lake
 02:03:54 Rep. Beck
 02:04:48 Rep. Brown

02:05:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-3 by roll call vote with Reps. Hamilton, Malek and Grinde voting no.

02:06:31 Rep. Lake
 02:07:09 Rep. Malek
 02:07:54 Rep. Brown
 02:08:22 Rep. Wilmer

02:09:44 **Vote:** Motion on HB 539 tied 8-8 by roll call vote with Reps. Hamilton, Wilmer, Fleming, Malek, McClafferty, Beck, Boss Ribs, and Grinde voting no. Rep. Wagner and Rep. Boss Ribs voted by proxy.

02:11:08 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Wilmer moved that **HB 539 BE TABLED**. Motion to table HB 539 was tied by voice vote with Reps. Hamilton, Wilmer, Fleming, Malek, McClafferty, Beck, Boss Ribs, and Grinde voting no. Rep. Wagner and Rep. Boss Ribs voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 15

02:12:49 **Motion:** Rep. Hamilton moved **HB 15 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

02:13:13 Rep. Brown
 02:13:48 Chairman Grinde
 02:13:51 Rep. Brown
 02:13:55 Rep. Butcher
 02:14:02 Chairman Grinde
 02:14:31 Rep. Wilmer
 02:15:12 Jeremy Gersovitz

02:15:21 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Bean moved **TO AMEND HB 15**. Motion on amendment failed 8-8 by roll call vote with Reps. Hamilton, Wilmer, Fleming, Malek, McClafferty, Beck, Boss Ribs and Grinde voting no. Reps. Boss Ribs and Wagner voted by proxy.

EXHIBIT (edh38a07)

02:16:53 Chairman Grinde

02:16:57 **Vote:** Motion on HB 15 tied 8-8 by roll call vote with Reps. Blasdel, Boniek, Brown, Bean, Lake, Butcher, Wagner, and Washburn voting no. Reps. Boss Ribs and Wagner voted by proxy.

02:18:27 Chairman Grinde

02:19:26 Rep. Brown

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 468

02:19:51 **Motion:** Rep. Hamilton moved **HB 468 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

02:20:01 Rep. Brown

02:20:48 Rep. Bean

02:21:22 Rep. Butcher

02:22:00 Rep. Hamilton

02:23:08 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Lake moved that **HB 468 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 15-3 by voice vote with Reps. Boss Ribs, McClafferty and Wilmer voting no.

02:23:42 Rep. Brown

02:24:08 Rep. McClafferty

02:25:05 Rep. Malek

02:25:20 Chairman Grinde

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:45 P.M.

Debbie Carlson, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([edh38aad.pdf](#))