

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Lake, on March 25, 2009 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. Janna Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Mike Miller (R)
Rep. Art Noonan (D)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. Lee Randall (R)
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Jennifer O'Loughlin, 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 663, 3/23/2009; HB 668,
3/23/2009; HB 670, 3/23/2009;
HB 672, 3/23/2009; HB 673,
3/23/2009; HB 674, 3/23/2009

Executive Action: HB 653

00:00:13 Chairman Lake explained how the committee would hear
and consider informational testimony on the four
reappraisal mitigation bills.

HEARING ON HB 670

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:15 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on
HB 670, Provide local government discretion in reducing
tax value for certain property.

EXHIBIT (tah66a01)

00:06:00 Chairman Lake

00:06:27 Mr. Martin

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:38 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association
00:08:25 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association
00:09:47 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties
00:11:50 Robert Johnson, Montana AFL-CIO
00:12:42 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:14:35 Rep. Barrett
00:15:11 Rep. Vincent
00:15:14 Rep. Barrett
00:15:28 Rep. Vincent
00:15:34 Rep. Wiseman
00:15:43 Rep. Vincent
00:15:51 Rep. Wiseman
00:16:01 Rep. Vincent

00:16:07 Rep. Hoven
00:16:18 Rep. Vincent
00:16:39 Rep. Jopek
00:17:01 Rep. Vincent
00:17:14 Rep. Pomnichowski
00:17:39 Rep. Vincent
00:17:43 Mr. Martin
00:17:55 Rep. Pomnichowski
00:18:23 Mr. Martin
00:18:56 Rep. Pomnichowski
00:19:07 Mr. Martin
00:19:53 Rep. Barrett
00:20:08 Rep. Vincent
00:20:11 Rep. Barrett
00:20:15 Rep. Vincent
00:20:52 Rep. Barrett
00:20:55 Rep. Stahl
00:21:22 Rep. Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

00:21:29 Rep. Vincent
00:22:33 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 668

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:22:58 Rep. Julie French (D), HD 36, opened the hearing on
HB 668, Revise taxation of railroad property.
EXHIBIT(tah66a02)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:30:01 Rep. Sue Dickinson, HD 25

Opponents' Testimony:

00:33:14 Alec Vincent, BNSF Railroad
00:38:54 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association
00:42:44 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce
00:43:41 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association
00:46:27 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

Informational Testimony:

00:47:41 Gene Walborn, Bureau Chief, Business and Income Taxes
Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

EXHIBIT (tah66a03)

00:52:04 C.A. Daw, Chief Legal Counsel, DOR

00:52:47 Spook Stang, Montana Association of Motor Carriers

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:53:09 Rep. McAlpin
00:53:20 Mr. Stang
00:54:31 Rep. Butcher
00:55:05 Mr. Daw
00:55:20 Rep. Butcher
00:55:27 Mr. Daw
00:55:38 Rep. Miller
00:55:59 Rep. French
00:57:58 Rep. Miller
00:58:18 Rep. French
00:59:35 Rep. Miller
00:59:56 Mr. Vincent
01:00:24 Rep. Stahl
01:00:39 Mr. Vincent
01:00:47 Rep. Stahl
01:01:47 Mr. Vincent
01:02:21 Chairman Lake
01:02:30 Rep. Wiseman
01:03:04 Mr. Walborn
01:03:24 Rep. Wiseman
01:03:32 Mr. Walborn
01:04:25 Rep. Stahl
01:04:45 Mr. Walborn
01:05:09 Rep. Cohenour
01:05:47 Ms. Whittinghill
01:05:53 Rep. Cohenour
01:06:02 Ms. Whittinghill
01:07:16 Rep. Cohenour
01:07:55 Mr. Walborn
01:08:46 Rep. Hoven
01:09:05 Chairman Lake
01:09:14 Rep. Cohenour
01:09:25 Chairman Lake
01:09:30 Rep. Hoven
01:09:47 Mr. Walborn
01:09:58 Rep. Hoven
01:10:16 Mr. Vincent
01:11:08 Rep. Cohenour
01:11:44 Rep. French
01:12:56 Chairman Lake

01:13:31 Mr. Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

01:14:04 Rep. French

01:17:30 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 674

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:17:46 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on
HB 674, Generally revise laws relating to state land.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:21:45 Rep. Cohenour, HD 78

01:23:23 Rep. Bill Nooney, HD 100

01:23:45 Rep. Tim Furey, HD 91

01:26:26 Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation

01:29:54 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

01:31:22 Kat Imhoff, State Director, The Nature Conservancy;
Trust for Public Lands

EXHIBIT (tah66a04)

01:33:50 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

01:36:14 Ralph Mannix, Rancher, Northern Powell County; Powell
County Commissioner

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:38:36 Joe Maurier, Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and
Parks

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:39:12 Rep. Miller

01:39:26 Mr. Maurier

01:40:35 Chairman Lake

01:40:41 Rep. Stahl

01:41:01 Rep. Vincent

01:41:30 Rep. Stahl

01:41:36 Rep. Vincent

01:41:48 Rep. Stahl

01:42:51 Rep. Vincent

01:43:55 Rep. Stahl
01:44:37 Rep. Vincent
01:44:51 Rep. Stahl
01:45:53 Ms. Sexton
01:47:34 Rep. Stahl
01:48:34 Ms. Sexton
01:49:34 Rep. Stahl
01:50:19 Ms. Sexton
01:51:08 Rep. Stahl
01:51:37 Ms. Sexton
01:51:58 Rep. Wiseman
01:52:24 Ms. Sexton
01:53:13 Chairman Lake
01:54:10 Mr. Blattie
01:54:40 Chairman Lake
01:54:49 Mr. Blattie

Closing by Sponsor:

01:55:11 Rep. Vincent
01:57:18 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.
01:57:42 Break
02:14:53 Reconvene
Rep. Butcher, Rep. McAlpin, Rep. Roundstone, Rep.
Taylor, Rep. Vincent, and Rep. Wiseman did not return
to the room.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 653

02:15:21 **Motion:** Rep. Pomnichowski moved that **HB 653 DO PASS.**

02:16:09 **Motion:** Rep. Pomnichowski moved that **HB 653 BE
AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(tah66a05)

Discussion:

02:16:38 Rep. Pomnichowski

02:17:20 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep.
Butcher, Rep. McAlpin, Rep. Roundstone, Rep. Taylor,
Rep. Vincent, and Rep. Wiseman voted by proxy.

02:17:59 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Pomnichowski moved that **HB 653 DO
PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried 19-1 by voice vote with
Rep. Stahl voting no. Rep. Butcher, Rep. McAlpin, Rep.

Roundstone, Rep. Taylor, Rep. Vincent, and Rep. Wiseman
voted by proxy.

HEARING ON HB 672

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:18:49 Rep. Mike Jopek (D), HD 4, opened the hearing on
HB 672, Constitutional amendment to cap property taxes.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

02:28:03 Joe Roberts, Montana Association of Realtors
02:30:48 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties
[EXHIBIT \(tah66a06\)](#)
02:34:20 Tom Bilodeau, MEA-MFT
02:36:48 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:37:35 Rep. Sonju
02:38:58 Mr. Bilodeau
02:39:30 Rep. Sonju
02:39:38 Mr. Bilodeau
02:40:27 Rep. Stahl
02:40:48 Rep. Jopek
02:40:59 Rep. Stahl
02:41:11 Rep. Jopek
02:41:31 Rep. Stahl
02:42:23 Rep. Jopek
02:42:50 Rep. Barrett
02:43:37 Rep. Jopek
02:43:46 Rep. Barrett
02:44:32 Rep. Jopek
02:45:02 Rep. Barrett
02:45:10 Rep. Jopek
02:45:36 Rep. Miller
02:46:39 Mr. Blattie

Closing by Sponsor:

02:47:34 Rep. Jopek

02:50:00 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

02:50:07 Chairman Lake explained that the Department of Revenue would provide Informational Testimony for all of the reappraisal mitigation bills: HB 658, HB 663, HB 666, and HB 674.

Informational Testimony on Reappraisal Mitigation Bills

02:50:41 Alan Peura, Deputy Director, DOR

EXHIBIT (tah66a07)

02:58:06 Mr. Peura discussed the possible impacts of HB 658.

EXHIBIT (tah66a08)

03:18:58 Rep. Sonju

03:19:13 Mr. Peura

03:20:05 Rep. Sonju

03:20:21 Mr. Peura

03:21:23 Rep. Barrett

03:22:03 Mr. Peura

03:22:14 Dan Bucks, Director, DOR

03:24:12 Mr. Peura

EXHIBIT (tah66a09)

EXHIBIT (tah66a10)

EXHIBIT (tah66a11)

03:28:05 Chairman Lake

03:28:46 Rep. Cohenour

03:29:15 Rep. Jopek

03:30:58 Chairman Lake

03:31:27 Jim Standaert

03:32:35 Rep. Hoven

03:33:21 Rep. Cohenour

03:33:26 Chairman Lake

03:33:33 Mr. Standaert

03:35:52 Chairman Lake

03:35:56 Mr. Standaert

03:36:01 Rep. Barrett

03:36:31 Mr. Peura

03:37:00 Rep. Jopek

03:38:43 Mr. Bucks

EXHIBIT (tah66a12)

03:39:59 Rep. Jopek

03:40:34 Rep. Stahl

03:42:00 Chairman Lake

03:42:37 Rep. Cohenour

03:44:34 Chairman Lake

03:45:23 Mr. Bucks

03:46:53 Chairman Lake

03:47:28 Rep. Jopek

03:48:12 Chairman Lake

03:48:38 Rep. Cohenour
03:49:17 Chairman Lake
03:49:45 Rep. Barrett
03:49:56 Chairman Lake
03:50:15 Rep. Barrett
03:51:26 Rep. Miller
03:51:51 Rep. Cohenour
03:52:24 Rep. Stahl
03:53:41 Chairman Lake
03:53:50 Mr. Standaert
03:54:50 Chairman Lake
03:55:12 Mr. Standaert
03:55:34 Mr. Bucks
03:57:42 Rep. Jopek
03:59:51 Chairman Lake
04:00:42 Rep. Stahl
04:00:48 Chairman Lake
04:01:01 Rep. Cohenour
04:01:56 Mr. Bucks
04:03:17 Rep. Cohenour
04:04:00 Chairman Lake
04:04:24 Rep. Hoven
04:05:05 Rep. Barrett
04:05:35 Chairman Lake
04:05:47 Mr. Bucks

EXHIBIT (tah66a13)

04:06:23 Chairman Lake announced that the committee would
continue discussion of the reappraisal bills at
5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

04:06:38 Adjournment: 12:05 P.M.

Jennifer O'Loughlin, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([tah66aad.pdf](#))