

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: Chairman Keith Bales, on March 31, 2009 at 8:00
A.M., in Room 317 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Keith Bales, Chairman (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Debby Barrett (R)
Sen. John Brenden (R)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)
Sen. Rick Laible (R)
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Rick Ripley (R)
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)
Sen. Ryan Zinke (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, 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 645, 3/26/2009

Executive Action: None

00:00:01 Chairman Bales
00:00:57 Sen. Cooney
00:01:27 Chairman Bales
Sen. Lewis, Sen. Brueggeman, Sen. Gallus, Sen. Hawks,
and Sen. Tropila now present

HEARING ON HB 645

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:59 Rep. Jon Sesso (D), HD 76, opened the hearing on HB
645, Implement receipt of and appropriate federal
stimulus and recovery funds.

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a02\)](#)

00:54:12 Chairman Bales

Informational Testimony:

00:54:22 Director David Ewer, Office of Budget and Program
Planning (OBPP)

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a04\)](#)

01:16:46 Chairman Bales

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:16:59 Sen. Hawks
01:17:29 Rep. Sesso
01:17:48 Sen. Hawks
01:17:51 Chairman Bales
01:17:55 Sen. Cooney
01:18:29 Rep. Sesso
01:19:35 Pat Gervais, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
01:20:30 Sen. Cooney
01:20:53 Rep. Sesso
01:21:58 Sen. Cooney
01:22:13 Rep. Sesso

01:22:32 Chairman Bales
01:22:33 Taryn Purdy, LFD
01:22:47 Sen. Schmidt
01:23:18 Rep. Sesso
01:23:53 Lois Steinbeck, LFD
01:24:14 Sen. Schmidt
01:24:32 Rep. Sesso

EXHIBIT (fcs71a05)

01:28:13 Sen. Barkus
01:28:21 Rep. Sesso
01:32:43 SEn. Barkus
01:33:07 Rep. Sesso
01:33:36 Chairman Bales
01:33:42 Sen. Tropila
01:33:59 Rep. Sesso
01:37:39 Sen. Williams
01:38:31 Rep. Sesso
01:42:08 Chairman Bales
01:42:09 Sen. Laible
01:43:47 Rep. Sesso
01:48:43 Sen. Laible
01:48:47 Chairman Bales
01:48:48 Sen. Lewis
01:49:51 Director Ewer, OBPP
01:49:58 Sen. Lewis
01:50:24 Director Ewer
01:50:28 Sen. Lewis
01:51:00 Director Ewer
01:51:19 Sen. Lewis
01:51:41 Director Ewer
01:51:51 Sen. Lewis
01:51:55 Director Ewer
01:55:24 Sen. Lewis
01:55:28 Chairman Bales
01:56:25 Director Ewer
01:57:49 Chairman Bales
01:58:58 Director Ewer
02:01:33 Chairman Bales
02:01:37 Sen. Wanzenried
02:02:56 Rep. Sesso
02:03:30 Sen. Wanzenried
02:03:52 Rep. Sesso
02:04:12 Sen. Wanzenried
02:04:38 Rep. Sesso
02:06:17 Sen. Wanzenried
02:06:45 Rep. Sesso
02:06:49 Sen. Wanzenried
02:07:07 Rep. Sesso
02:07:38 Sen. Wanzenried

02:07:39 Chairman Bales
02:07:49 Sen. Zinke
02:09:14 Rep. Sesso
02:16:01 Sen. Zinke
02:18:24 Rep. Sesso
02:22:50 Sen. Zinke
02:23:08 Chairman Bales

02:24:41 Recess
02:41:23 Reconvene

02:41:47 Chairman Bales

Section A - General Government:

Public Testimony:

02:43:02 Patrick Connell, Rocky Mountain Log Homes
02:46:22 Geoffrey Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association
02:52:52 Kathleen Driscoll, Ravalli County Commissioner
02:53:46 Chere Jiusto, Montana Preservation Alliance

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a06\)](#)

Questions from the Committee and Responses:

02:59:53 Sen. Lewis
03:00:10 Bruce Brensdal, Department of Commerce (COM)
03:01:02 Sen. Lewis
03:01:07 Chairman Bales
03:01:11 Sen. Barrett
03:01:45 Ms. Jiusto
03:02:57 Chairman Laible
03:03:01 Sen. Laible
03:03:30 Mr. Feiss
03:03:48 Sen. Laible
03:04:07 Mr. Feiss
03:04:36 Sen. Laible
03:04:58 Mr. Feiss
03:05:32 Chairman Bales
03:05:51 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
03:09:40 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns
03:13:31 Chairman Bales

Section B - Public Health and Human Services:

Public Testimony:

03:14:19 Travis Hoffman, Independent Living Centers
03:16:52 Mark Sanders, Brain Injury Association of Montana

EXHIBIT (fcs71a07)

03:18:28 Anita Roessmann, Disability Rights Montana, Brain
Injury Association of Montana

EXHIBIT (fcs71a08)

03:22:30 Kathy McGowan, Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
and County Attorneys Association

03:24:49 Jim Martin, Human Resource Council, Missoula and
Ravalli Counties

03:26:33 Joe Kiely, Helena YWCA

EXHIBIT (fcs71a09)

03:27:59 Kate Bradford, Montana Food Bank Network

EXHIBIT (fcs71a10)

EXHIBIT (fcs71a11)

03:33:24 Susan Dow, Developmental Disability Childrens Service
Providers

03:34:26 Jan Cahill, Montana Association of Community Disability
Services

03:35:13 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association

03:41:03 Linda Stoll, Area Agencies on Aging

EXHIBIT (fcs71a12)

03:47:27 Mike Foster, Wheatland Memorial Hospital and Catholic
Hospitals of Montana

03:49:41 Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT

03:50:48 Bob Olson, Montana Hospital Association

03:54:15 Steve Nelson, Montana Childrens Initiative

03:56:34 Chairman Bales

03:57:46 Recess 12:00 p.m.

03:58:02 Reconvene 5:23 p.m.

03:58:19 Vice-Chair Lewis

Chairman Bales, Sen. Brueggeman, Sen. Esp, Sen.
Peterson and Sen. Wanzenried not present

Section D - Public Safety and Justice:

Public Testimony:

03:58:46 Lois Menzies, Court Administrator, Supreme Court

Questions from the Committee and Responses:

04:01:53 Sen. Zinke
04:02:05 Ms. Menzies
04:02:16 Sen. Zinke
04:02:29 Ms. Menzies
04:03:08 Sen. Zinke
04:03:43 Ms. Menzies
04:04:10 Sen. Laible
04:04:29 Ms. Menzies
04:05:22 Sen. Laible
04:06:10 Sen. Lewis

Public Testimony:

04:06:17 Mary Phippen, Montana Association of Clerks of District Court and Montana Magistrates Association

Section E - Education:

04:07:16 Kris Wilkinson, LFD

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a13\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a14\)](#)

04:12:00 Vice-Chair Lewis
04:12:08 Sen. Ripley
04:12:24 Ms. Wilkinson
04:12:34 Sen. Ripley
04:12:41 Ms. Wilkinson

Public Testimony:

04:12:55 Denise Juneau, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
04:13:05 Frank Polobnik, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
04:13:36 Sen. Ripley
04:13:39 Mr. Podobnik, OPI
04:15:06 Sen. Lewis
04:15:14 Superintendent Juneau

[EXHIBIT \(fcs71a15\)](#)

Questions from the Committee and Responses:

04:22:09 Sen. Hawks
04:22:36 Superintendent Juneau
04:23:08 Sen. Tropila
04:23:28 Superintendent Juneau
04:24:15 Sen. Tropila
04:24:31 Superintendent Juneau
04:25:33 Sen. Tropila
04:25:47 Superintendent Juneau
04:27:00 Sen. Tropila
04:27:03 Vice-Chair Lewis
04:27:31 Superintendent Juneau
04:27:41 Vice-Chair Lewis

Public Testimony:

04:27:51 Mr. Ferro, MEA-MFT

Questions from the Committee and Responses:

04:31:34 Sen. Laible
04:32:18 Mr. Ferro
04:33:28 Sen. Laible
04:33:35 Mr. Ferro
04:33:45 Sen. Laible
04:33:54 Mr. Ferro
04:33:58 Sen. Laible
04:34:05 Mr. Ferro
04:34:26 Sen. Ripley
04:34:45 Mr. Ferro
04:35:03 Sen. Ripley
04:35:37 Rep. Sesso
04:35:57 Sen. Tropila
04:36:18 Rep. Sesso
04:36:24 Ms. Wilkinson, LFD
04:36:32 Vice-Chair Lewis
04:36:42 Sen. Zinke
04:37:04 Sen. Peterson now present
04:37:22 Mr. Ferro
04:37:40 Jane Karas, President, Flathead Valley Community
College
04:38:32 Sen. Zinke
04:38:37 Ms. Karas
04:39:22 Vice-Chair Lewis

Public Testimony:

04:39:28 Sheila Stearns, Commissioner of Higher Education
04:42:32 Mary Sheehy Moe, Deputy Commissioner for Two-Year
Education

Questions from the Committee and Responses:

04:45:38 Sen. Zinke
04:46:20 Ms. Moe
04:47:06 Sen. Zinke
04:47:22 Ms. Moe
04:47:39 Roberta Evans, Dean of Education, University of
Montana
04:48:36 Sen. Zinke
04:49:11 Vice-Chair Lewis
04:49:45 Ms. Evans
04:52:00 Vice-Chair Lewis
04:52:06 Sen. Laible
04:52:22 Ms. Evans
04:52:35 Sen. Laible
04:52:50 Ms. Evans
04:53:20 Sen. Laible
04:53:23 Vice-Chair Lewis
04:53:33 Sen. Ripley
04:54:06 Mick Robinson, Deputy Commissioner for Administrative
and Fiscal Affairs
04:54:41 Rep. Sesso
04:55:41 Vice-Chair Lewis
04:55:55 Commissioner Stearns
04:56:18 Vice-Chair Lewis

Public Testimony:

04:56:29 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)
05:02:06 Vice-Chair Lewis
05:02:13 Ms. Karas
05:05:19 Vice-Chair Lewis
05:05:24 Edward Black, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)
05:06:37 Tim Tolman, CTA Architects
05:08:39 Vice-Chair Lewis
05:08:45 Terry Kendrick, Montana Indian Education Association
05:09:57 Vice-Chair Lewis

Questions from the Committee and Responses:

05:10:10 Sen. Barkus
05:10:57 Ms. Karas
05:11:09 Vice-Chair Lewis

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05:11:48 Chairman Bales
05:11:52 Rep. Sesso
05:12:20 Sen. Tropila
05:12:33 Chairman Bales
05:13:47 Sen. Tropila
05:13:53 Chairman Bales
05:14:48 Sen. Tropila
05:14:50 Sen. Schmidt
05:15:00 Chairman Bales
05:15:47 Rep. Villa
05:15:51 Chairman Bales

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:41 P.M.

Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([fcs71aad.pdf](#))