

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Taylor Brown, on March 30, 2015 at 4:08 PM, in Room 422 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Taylor Brown, Chair (R)  
Sen. Mark Blasdel, Vice Chair (R) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Elsie Arntzen (R)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Tom Facey (D)  
Sen. Kris Hansen (R)  
Sen. Mary Sheehy Moe (D)  
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D) (arrived after roll call)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Llew Jones (R)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Angie Koehler, Committee Secretary  
Padraic McCracken, 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 322, 3/24/2015

**HEARING ON HB 322**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

- 00:01:04 Rep. Donald Jones (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 322, Create education savings accounts for children with disabilities.
- 00:01:10 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy entered the hearing.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

- 00:05:07 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)
- 00:10:12 Matt Kuntz, executive director, NAMI Montana  
**EXHIBIT(eds66a01)**
- 00:11:21 Michael Chartier, state programs director, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice
- 00:16:35 Sen. Blasdel entered the hearing.
- 00:20:00 Brent Mead, executive director, Montana Policy Institute
- 00:21:58 Karen Lewis, special education para-professional educator, Helena School District
- 00:25:41 Peggy Webb on behalf of Tonya Shellnut, parent of three students with disabilities  
**EXHIBIT(eds66a02)**
- 00:30:34 Lisa Russell, parent  
**EXHIBIT(eds66a03)**
- 00:35:27 Sen. Kris Hansen (R), SD 14  
**EXHIBIT(eds66a04)**
- 00:52:24 Rep. Jones

**Opponents' Testimony:**

- 00:53:10 Jim Molloy, senior policy advisor, Governor's Office (GOV)
- 01:01:00 Dennis Parman, deputy superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- 01:11:01 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association
- 01:12:36 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana
- 01:21:46 Eric Feaver, MEA-MFT
- 01:23:19 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition

**Informational Testimony:**

- 01:23:53 Frank Podobnik, state director of special education, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- 01:24:17 Julie Feldman, state accounting bureau chief, State Financial Services Division, Department of Administration (DOA)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:24:35 Sen. Cohenour  
01:25:21 Mr. Podobnik, OPI  
01:26:11 Sen. Cohenour  
01:26:25 Mr. Podobnik  
01:26:55 Sen. Cohenour  
01:27:12 Mr. Podobnik  
01:27:20 Sen. Cohenour  
01:27:21 Mr. Podobnik  
01:27:27 Sen. Cohenour  
01:27:48 Mr. Podobnik  
01:28:42 Sen. Cohenour  
01:28:59 Mr. Podobnik  
01:29:43 Sen. Cohenour  
01:29:54 Mr. Podobnik  
01:30:16 Sen. Cohenour  
01:30:35 Mr. Podobnik  
01:30:41 Sen. Facey  
01:31:04 Mr. Podobnik

**EXHIBIT(eds66a05)**

01:31:11 Sen. Facey  
01:31:14 Mr. Podobnik  
01:31:34 Sen. Facey  
01:31:49 Mr. Podobnik  
01:31:59 Sen. Facey  
01:32:01 Mr. Podobnik  
01:32:10 Sen. Facey  
01:32:16 Mr. Podobnik  
01:32:25 Sen. Facey  
01:32:34 Mr. Podobnik  
01:32:43 Chairman Brown  
01:32:47 Sen. Facey  
01:32:49 Mr. Podobnik  
01:32:52 Sen. Facey  
01:32:57 Chairman Brown  
01:33:01 Mr. Podobnik  
01:33:13 Sen. Facey  
01:33:14 Mr. Podobnik  
01:33:34 Sen. Facey  
01:34:20 Mr. Podobnik  
01:34:47 Sen. Facey  
01:34:54 Mr. Podobnik  
01:35:01 Sen. Facey  
01:35:03 Mr. Podobnik  
01:35:09 Sen. Moe  
01:35:49 Mr. Parman, OPI  
01:35:54 Sen. Moe  
01:36:00 Mr. Parman

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01:36:06 Sen. Moe  
01:36:16 Mr. Parman  
01:36:18 Sen. Moe  
01:36:43 Mr. Parman  
01:37:01 Sen. Moe  
01:37:51 Mr. Molloy, GOV  
01:38:14 Sen. Moe  
01:38:50 Mr. Laszloffy, MFF  
01:39:28 Sen. Moe  
01:39:39 Mr. Laszloffy  
01:39:56 Sen. Arntzen  
01:40:16 Mr. Parman  
01:41:49 Sen. Arntzen  
01:42:00 Mr. Parman  
01:42:07 Sen. Arntzen  
01:42:51 Mr. Parman  
01:43:25 Sen. Arntzen  
01:43:36 Mr. Parman  
01:43:45 Sen. Facey  
01:44:25 Sen. Hansen  
01:45:31 Sen. Facey  
01:45:37 Sen. Hansen  
01:45:41 Chairman Brown  
01:46:03 Sen. Hansen  
01:47:06 Chairman Brown  
01:47:16 Sen. Hansen  
01:47:39 Chairman Brown  
01:47:56 Sen. Hansen  
01:49:45 Chairman Brown  
01:49:03 Sen. Hansen  
01:49:05 Chairman Brown  
01:49:12 Sen. Hansen  
01:49:19 Chairman Brown  
01:49:43 Ms. Russell, self  
01:50:40 Chairman Brown  
01:51:05 Ms. Russell  
01:51:46 Chairman Brown  
01:52:05 Ms. Feldman, DOA  
01:52:20 Chairman Brown  
01:52:28 Sen. Cohenour  
01:52:53 Mr. Molloy

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:53:51 Sen. Hansen

**Committee Business:**

02:00:45 Chairman Brown

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 6:11 P.M.

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Angie Koehler, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([eds66aad.pdf](#))**