

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Seth Berglee, on January 13, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Seth Berglee, Chair (R)  
Rep. Fred Anderson, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Becky Beard (R)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Sara Novak (D)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch  
Jessica Tsias, Remote Meeting Coordinator

**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 32, 1/8/2021; HB 33, 1/8/2021; HB 68, 1/8/2021  
Executive Action: HB 68, HB 33

15:00:26 Chair Berglee  
15:00:55 Vice Chair Anderson left the meeting.  
15:01:40 Rep. McKamey  
15:01:50 Chair Berglee

### HEARING ON HB 68

#### Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:02:34 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 68, Provide early school enrollment for children of relocated military families.

[EXHIBIT\(edh08a01\)](#)

#### Proponents' Testimony:

15:07:18 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
15:09:50 Jule Walker, Montana School Board Association (MSBA)  
15:10:54 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)  
15:14:11 Shane Etwiler, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

#### Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:16:18 Rep. Bishop  
15:17:01 Rep. Bertoglio  
15:17:22 Rep. Kerns  
15:17:56 Rep. Bertoglio  
15:18:14 Rep. Kerns  
15:19:07 Rep. Bertoglio  
15:19:33 Chair Berglee  
15:20:07 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, OPI  
15:21:00 Rep. Funk  
15:22:12 Rep. McKamey  
15:22:30 Rep. Kerns  
15:22:46 Rep. McKamey  
15:22:53 Rep. Kerns  
15:23:54 Rep. Reksten  
15:25:04 Rep. Bertoglio  
15:25:18 Vice Chair Anderson rejoined the meeting.  
15:25:56 Rep. Beard  
15:27:32 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, OPI

#### Closing by Sponsor:

15:29:05 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

**HEARING ON HB 32****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:30:13 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 32, Repeal ending fund balance limits for school district funds.

**EXHIBIT(edh08a02)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:32:52 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:33:50 Jule Walker, Montana School Board Association (MSBA)

15:34:37 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

15:35:40 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:36:30 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:37:00 Rep. Kerns

15:37:52 Rep. Vinton

15:38:22 Paul Taylor, OPI

15:41:27 Rep. Kerns

15:41:54 Paul Taylor, OPI

15:43:08 Rep. Kerns

15:43:29 Paul Taylor, OPI

15:44:17 Rep. Ler

15:44:48 Paul Taylor, OPI

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:45:43 Rep. Sue Vinton

**HEARING ON HB 33****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:46:36 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 33, Clarify school funding related to anticipated enrollment increases.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:48:36 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:49:12 Jule Walker, Montana School Board Association (MSBA)

15:49:58 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

15:51:00 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:51:31 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:52:01 Rep. Reksten

15:52:36 Paul Taylor, OPI

15:55:31 Rep. Reksten

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:55:47 Rep. Sue Vinton

**Committee Business:**

15:56:09 Chair Berglee

15:56:12 Recess

16:05:13 Reconvened

16:05:20 Chair Berglee

16:05:26 Rep. Ler

16:05:47 Chair Berglee

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 68**

16:06:07 **Motion:** Rep. Anderson moved that **HB 68 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:06:13 Chair Berglee

16:06:45 Rep. McKamey

16:08:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Running Wolf voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 33**

16:08:59 **Motion:** Rep. Anderson moved that **HB 33 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:09:15 Chair Berglee

16:09:29 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Running Wolf voted by proxy.

16:09:55 Chair Berglee

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:  
16:10:14

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Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([edh08aad.pdf](#))