

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: Chair Seth Berglee, on January 25, 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. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch
Ashley Duncan, 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 67, 1/20/2021; HB 143, 1/20/2021; HB 179, 1/20/2021

HEARING ON HB 143**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:07:59 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 143, Provide incentives for increasing starting teacher pay.

EXHIBIT(edh16a01)

16:10:16 Rep. McKamey joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:11:44 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

16:14:14 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office (GO)

16:14:56 Rep. Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.

16:16:16 Lance Melton, Montana School Board Association (MSBA); Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC)

16:21:46 Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Opponents' Testimony: None**Informational Testimony:**

16:23:24 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:23:46 Rep. Thane

16:24:19 Rep. Jones

16:24:58 Rep. Running Wolf

16:25:25 Rep. Jones

16:26:09 Rep. Running Wolf

16:26:22 Rep. Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

16:26:37 Rep. Jones

HEARING ON HB 67**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:27:41 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 67, Generally revise community college funding laws.

EXHIBIT(edh16a02)**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:42:36 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chambers of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony:

16:44:30 President Jane Karas, Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC)

16:49:11 Ed Bartlett, Miles Community College (MCC); Dawson Community College (DCC)

Informational Testimony:

16:54:13 Shauna Lyons, Commissioner for Higher Education (OCHE)
16:54:33 Katie Guenther, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:54:56 Rep. Beard
16:56:58 Rep Jones
16:57:34 Rep. Reksten
16:59:09 Rep. Jones
17:00:16 Chair Berglee
17:00:41 Rep. McKamey left the meeting.
17:00:49 President Jane Karas, FVCC
17:01:37 Chair Berglee
17:01:54 President Jane Karas, FVCC

Closing by Sponsor:

17:02:14 Rep. Jones

HEARING ON HB 179**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:06:49 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 179, Generally revise laws related to community colleges.

Proponents' Testimony: None**Opponents' Testimony:**

17:15:30 President Jane Karas, Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC)

[EXHIBIT\(edh16a03\)](#)

17:18:11 Ed Bartlett, Miles Community College (MCC); Dawson Community College (DCC)
17:20:47 Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Testimony:

17:22:44 Shauna Lyons, Commissioner for Higher Education (OCHE)
17:22:59 Katie Guenther, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:23:28 Rep. Thane
17:24:08 Rep. Bedey
17:24:53 Rep. Bishop
17:25:42 Ed Bartlett, MCC; DCC
17:26:49 Rep. Bishop
17:27:12 Rep. Bedey
17:28:18 Chair Berglee
17:29:04 President Jane Karas, FVCC

Closing by Sponsor:

17:31:48 Rep. Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:39:22

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([edh16aad.pdf](#))