

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: Chair Seth Berglee, on February 8, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Seth Berglee, Chair (R)
Rep. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)
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)

Members Excused:

Rep. Fred Anderson, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch
Jesse Tack, 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 246, 2/2/2021; HB 206, 2/2/2021; SB 42, 2/2/2021
Executive Action: HB 179

HEARING ON HB 206**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

- 15:02:25 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 206, Revise education laws related to tuition and in-state treatment.
- 15:03:29 Rep. Vinton joined the meeting.
- 15:04:44 Rep. Running Wolf joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

- 15:04:49 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- 15:07:23 Jim Fitzgerald, Intermountain Children's Home
- 15:11:24 Bill Warden, Shodair Children's Hospital
- 15:14:13 Mike Chavers, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR)

[EXHIBIT\(edh26a01\)](#)

- 15:16:46 Lance Melton, Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC)

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

- 15:18:48 Ken Bailey, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- 15:19:12 Tom Livers, Shodair Children's Hospital

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

- 15:19:38 Rep. Kerns
- 15:20:14 Lance Melton, MT-PEC
- 15:20:57 Rep. Kerns
- 15:21:25 Ken Baily, OPI
- 15:22:45 Rep. Kerns
- 15:23:07 Ken Baily, OPI
- 15:23:37 Rep. Thane
- 15:23:57 Ken Baily, OPI

Closing by Sponsor:

- 15:24:50 Rep. Bedey

HEARING ON HB 246**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

- 15:29:40 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 246, Revise education laws to enhance local control and opportunities for pupils.

Proponents' Testimony:

- 15:32:07 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
- 15:34:26 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
- 15:36:18 Brian Thompson, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)
- 15:37:01 Lance Melton, Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:52:27 McCall Flynn, Board of Public Education (BOPE)

15:53:27 Sharyl Allen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

EXHIBIT(edh26a02)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:55:42 Rep. Kerns

15:56:22 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, OPI

15:57:14 Chair Berglee

15:57:26 Rep. Bertoglio

15:57:48 Rep. Reksten

15:58:35 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, OPI

Closing by Sponsor:

16:00:51 Rep. Bertoglio

HEARING ON SB 42

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:02:24 Sen. Carlie Boland (D), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 42, Allow use of school major maintenance funds for lead remediation.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:05:04 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

16:05:22 Rep. Seekins-Crowe left the meeting.

16:06:37 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:09:03 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

16:09:24 Amy Steinmetz, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:09:48 Rep. Kerns

16:11:00 Sen. Boland

16:11:42 Rep. Kerns

16:11:57 Sen. Boland

16:12:12 Chair Berglee

16:12:42 Rep. Thane

16:13:12 Sen. Boland

Closing by Sponsor:

16:14:02 Sen. Boland

16:14:55 Chair Berglee

16:15:20 Recessed
16:28:20 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 179

16:28:29 **Motion:** Rep. Funk moved that **HB 179 DO PASS.**

16:28:38 **Motion:** Rep. Funk moved that **HB 179 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(edh26a03)

Discussion:

16:28:54 Rep. Bedey
16:35:58 Rep. Funk
16:36:54 Rep. Bedey
16:38:00 Rep. Kerns
16:38:18 Rep. Bedey
16:41:27 Rep. Thane
16:42:10 Rep. Bedey

16:44:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Anderson and Rep. Beard voted by proxy.

16:45:22 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Funk moved that **HB 179 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Anderson and Rep. Beard voted by proxy.

Committee Business:

16:46:52 Chair Berglee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:47:12

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([edh26aad.pdf](#))