

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Becky Beard, on February 9, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 152 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Becky Beard, Chair (R)
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Tom Welch, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Megan Moore, Legislative Branch
Jennifer Murphy, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Kathy Sangray, Committee Secretary

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 252, 2/4/2021; HB 303, 2/4/2021

08:02:01 Rep. Trebas joined the meeting

HEARING ON HB 303

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:05:07 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 303, Revise business equipment tax laws: Business Investment Grows (BIG) Jobs Act.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:06:54 Director Brendan Beatty, Department of Revenue (DOR)

08:15:39 Eugene Graf, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

EXHIBIT(tah27a01)

08:17:20 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

08:19:12 Steve Arveschoug, Big Sky Economic Development (BSED)

08:24:00 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

08:26:52 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)

08:28:27 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

08:29:00 Ron Devlin, Montana Wool Growers Association (MWGA)

08:29:46 Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development; North Central Montana Economic Development

08:30:27 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association (MCMOA); Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA); National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); Helena Chamber of Commerce

08:31:38 Cynthia Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

08:32:51 Tammy Johnson, Montana Mining Association

08:33:47 Dan Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce

EXHIBIT(tah27a02)

08:35:17 Elaine Taylor, Montana Beverage Association

08:36:00 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

EXHIBIT(tah27a03)

08:36:49 Jule Walker, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

08:37:33 Julie Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

EXHIBIT(tah27a04)

08:38:25 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Agriculture Business Association (MABA); Montana Grain Elevators Association (MGEA); Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)

08:39:38 Jan Rouse, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

08:40:11 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

08:40:44 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Bankers Association

EXHIBIT(tah27a05)

08:42:09 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA); Montana Cattlewomen

08:42:52 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)

08:45:11 Duane Williams, Motor Carriers of Montana (MCM)

08:46:09 Shane Scanlon, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

08:46:22 Jessie Luther, Hospitality and Development Association of Montana (HDAM);
Idaho Forest Group (IFG); Hecla Mine
08:47:19 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)
08:47:42 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association (MLHA)
08:48:29 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store
Association (MPMCSA)

Opponents' Testimony:

08:49:00 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)
EXHIBIT(tah27a06)

08:52:17 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote (MWV)
08:53:46 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Testimony:

08:57:36 Kory Hofland, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)
08:58:10 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
08:59:01 Eric Dale, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:59:26 Vice Chair Welch
08:59:53 Vice Chair Fern
09:00:10 Rep. Buckley joined the meeting
09:00:48 Bob Story, MonTax
09:04:45 Rep Trebas
09:05:43 Rose Bender, MBPC
09:06:29 Rep. Dunwell
09:07:12 Rose Bender, MBPC
09:08:16 Rep. Dunwell
09:09:00 Paul Taylor, OPI
09:11:08 Chair Beard
09:12:10 Rose Bender, MBPC
09:12:57 Rep. Malone
09:13:21 Eric Dale, DOR
09:14:15 Rep. Thane
09:14:50 Eric Dale, DOR
09:16:27 Rep. Brewster
09:19:30 Eric Dale, DOR
09:20:01 Rep. R. Knudsen
09:21:20 Rep. Kassmier
09:21:49 Rep. Dunwell
09:22:59 SJ Howell, MWV

Closing by Sponsor:

09:25:12 Rep. Kassmier

09:26:34 Recessed
09:34:00 Reconvened

09:34:02 Rep. Mitchell joined the meeting

HEARING ON HB 252**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:34:14 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 252, Non-refundable tax credit for employer-paid education of trade professions.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:37:21 Brad Griffin, Montana Equipment Dealers Association
09:39:35 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
09:41:24 Clay Ledbetter, Liberty Electric
09:43:08 Eugene Graf, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

EXHIBIT(tah27a07)

09:45:52 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)
09:46:41 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)
09:47:33 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)
09:48:08 Aimee Grmoljez, MDU Resource Group; Knife River; Ash Grove Cement; CHS

EXHIBIT(tah27a08)

09:50:04 Ron Devlin, Montana Wool Growers Association
09:51:36 Casey Olson, Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA)
09:53:09 Ronda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA); Helena Chamber of Commerce
09:55:38 Cynthia Johnson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
09:56:29 Director Scott Osterman, Department of Commerce (COM)

EXHIBIT(tah27a09)

10:07:59 Brock Tessman, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)
10:10:04 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association

EXHIBIT(tah27a10)

10:11:23 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

EXHIBIT(tah27a11)

10:12:33 Dan Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce

EXHIBIT(tah27a12)

10:14:08 Tammy Johnson, Montana Mining Association (MMA)
10:15:49 Aiden Myhre, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

EXHIBIT(tah27a13)

10:17:23 Margaret Morgan, Montana Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)
10:18:00 Rep. Mitchell left the meeting
10:19:51 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
10:21:03 Jan Rouse, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
10:22:12 Austin Trunkle, Big Sky Economic Development (BSED)
10:23:34 Adam Haight, American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
10:24:52 Duane Williams, Motor Carriers of Montana (MCM)
10:25:33 Jessie Luther, Idaho Forest Group (IFG); Talon Montana; Hecla Mine

10:26:20 Scott Reichner, Montana Auto Dealers Association (MADA)
10:26:58 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)

Opponents' Testimony:

10:28:02 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

Informational Testimony:

10:31:45 Jay Reardon, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
10:32:24 Scott Eychner, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
10:32:49 Lee Baerlocher, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:33:25 Vice Chair Fern
10:34:07 Director Scott Osterman, COM
10:36:46 Rep. Thane
10:37:35 Rep. Jones
10:39:49 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
10:40:36 Rep. Jones
10:43:08 Rep. Kerns
10:44:06 Rep. Jones
10:44:39 Rep. R. Knudsen
10:45:10 Rep. Jones
10:45:23 Vice Chair Fern
10:46:13 Rep. Jones
10:48:07 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
10:49:15 Rep. Jones
10:49:34 Rep. Buckley
10:50:07 Rep. Jones
10:51:09 Chair Beard
10:51:54 Rep. Jones
10:52:21 Chair Beard
10:53:08 Jay Reardon, DLI
10:53:34 Scott Eychner, DLI

Closing by Sponsor:

10:54:36 Rep. Jones

10:58:53 Chair Beard
10:59:22 Vice Chair Welch

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:59:45

Kathy Sangray, Secretary

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