

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: Chair Seth Berglee, on February 10, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Seth Berglee, Chair (R)
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. Fred Anderson, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch
Katherine Anderson, 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 279, 2/4/2021; HB 286, 2/4/2021; HB 300, 2/4/2021

HEARING ON HB 300**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:03:40 Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB 300, Generally revise school transportation laws.

15:04:09 Rep. Anderson joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:08:24 Rep. Vinton

15:08:58 Rep. Schillinger

15:09:21 Rep. Vinton

15:09:42 Rep. Schillinger

15:10:05 Rep. McKamey

15:10:36 Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:11:15 Rep. Thane

15:11:37 Rep. Schillinger

Closing by Sponsor:

15:11:56 Rep. Schillinger

HEARING ON HB 286**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:14:36 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D), HD 32, opened the hearing on HB 286, Revise laws related to the Montana digital academy.

15:16:01 Rep. Running Wolf joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:21:01 Emily Dean, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)

15:23:04 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:24:26 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

Informational Testimony:

15:26:10 Bob Currie, Montana Digital Academy (MDA)

15:26:43 Ken Baily Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:27:19 Rep. Thane
 15:27:59 Bob Currie, MDA
 15:28:30 Rep. McKamey
 15:29:06 Rep. Windy Boy
 15:30:08 Rep. Beard
 15:30:41 Ken Baily, OPI

Closing by Sponsor:

15:31:27 Rep. Windy Boy

 15:32:34 Recessed
 15:35:38 Reconvened with Rep. Vinton absent.

 15:35:41 Rep. Ler assumed the gavel.

HEARING ON HB 279**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:35:46 Rep. Seth Berglee (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 279, Revise laws related to tax credit scholarship and innovative education programs.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:38:06 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
 15:38:37 Rep. Funk joined the meeting.
 15:38:52 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)
 15:41:31 Jake Penwell, Ace Scholarships
 15:44:15 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office (GOV)
 15:45:25 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity
 15:47:03 Susie Shimmim, Age of Montessori
 15:48:51 Kris Hansen, Big Sky Scholarships
 15:53:20 Leslie Hiner, EdChoice
 16:00:34 Jeremy Marsh, Stillwater Christian School (SCS)
 16:04:03 Kendra Espinoza, self
 16:06:33 Katie Dauphinais, ExcelinEd in Action
 16:08:17 Rick Gillis, MD, self
 16:10:22 Jeri Anderson, self
 16:13:24 Jerry Bennett, Big Sky Scholarships
 16:14:55 Shel Hanser, Billings Central Catholic High School (BCCHS)
 16:17:58 Kendra Espinoza, self
 16:20:56 Nathan Haney, self
 16:21:14 Rep. Running Wolf left the meeting.
 16:22:26 Tracy Danno, self

EXHIBIT(edh28a01)

16:28:06 Matt Brower, Montana Catholic Conference

Opponents' Testimony:

16:30:55 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
16:37:02 Debra Silk, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)
16:41:17 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)
16:45:57 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

[EXHIBIT\(edh28a02\)](#)**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:47:53 Erica Smith, Institute for Justice (IJ)

Opponents' Testimony

16:49:50 Gary Stein, self

[EXHIBIT\(edh28a03\)](#)

16:55:36 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

[EXHIBIT\(edh28a04\)](#)

17:01:29 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

Informational Testimony:

17:02:30 Lee Baeerlocher, Department of Revenue (DOR)

17:02:50 Ken Baily, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:03:21 Rep. Bishop
17:04:26 Dennis Parman, OPI
17:05:49 Rep. Reksten
17:06:24 Ken Baily, OPI
17:06:42 Rep. Berglee
17:07:59 Rep. Reksten
17:08:22 Rep. Berglee
17:12:18 Rep. Thane
17:12:54 Rep. Berglee
17:13:21 Kris Hansen, Big Sky Scholarships
17:13:31 Rep. Thane
17:13:59 Kris Hansen, Big Sky Scholarships
17:14:55 Rep. Funk
17:15:51 Glenn Oppel, GOV
17:16:04 Rep. Funk
17:16:15 Glenn Oppel, GOV
17:16:34 Rep. Funk
17:16:47 Glenn Oppel, GOV
17:17:19 Rep. Novak
17:17:55 Rep. Berglee
17:20:25 Rep. Novak

17:21:03 Rep. Berglee
17:21:36 Rep. Bertoglio
17:22:19 Ken Baily, OPI

Closing by Sponsor:

17:23:50 Rep. Berglee

17:33:09 Chair Berglee resumed the gavel

Committee Business:

17:33:26 Chair Berglee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:33:50

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([edh28aad.pdf](#))