

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Wendy McKamey, on February 16, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 455 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Wendy McKamey, Chair (R)  
Rep. Sharon Greef, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)  
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)  
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)  
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)  
Rep. Ed Hill (R)  
Rep. Jessica Karjala (D)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)  
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Kathy Whitman (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

John Bergoffen, Committee Secretary  
Coleen Street, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Pad McCracken, Legislative Branch

**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 323, 2/12/2021; HJ 8, 2/12/2021  
Executive Action: HB 277, HB 287, HB 317

**HEARING ON HB 323****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:05:29 Rep. Terry Moore (R), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 323, Generally revise pension laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:18:27 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:21:00 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

09:25:14 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

**Informational Testimony:**

09:29:29 Shawn Graham, Montana Teacher's Retirement System (TRS)

09:30:01 Dore Schwinden, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

09:30:32 William Holahan, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:31:39 Rep. Hill

09:32:17 Rep. Moore

09:34:33 Rep. Reksten

09:36:16 Shawn Graham, TRS

09:38:07 Rep. Putnam

09:41:12 Rep. Moore

09:42:29 William Holahan, MPERA

09:43:35 Rep. Karjala

09:46:30 Dore Schwinden, MPERA

**Opponent's Testimony:**

09:47:25 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

09:49:20 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:51:20 Rep. Dooling

09:51:57 Rep. Moore

09:54:48 Rep. Custer

09:55:38 William Holahan, MPERA

09:55:56 Rep. Hill

09:58:55 Rep. Moore

10:00:20 Rep. Custer

10:01:18 Dianne Burke, MQEC

10:02:27 Rep. Walsh

10:04:06 William Holahan, MPERA

10:05:00 Chair McKamey

10:05:29 William Holahan, MPERA

10:06:14 Rep. Custer

10:06:40 William Holahan, MPERA

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:06:54 Rep. Moore

**HEARING ON HJ 8**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:09:50 Rep. Frank Garner (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HJ 8, Provide for a study of pension laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:16:14 Joel Gaertig, Montana State Fireman Association (MSFA)

**EXHIBIT(sth32a01)**

10:20:18 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

10:21:30 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA); Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

10:22:41 Jesse Luther, Association of Montana Troopers (AMT)

10:24:11 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association

10:25:33 Dave Galt, Association of Montana Public Retired Employees (AMPRE)

10:27:01 Rep. Moore

10:28:22 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

10:29:20 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

10:30:59 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

10:33:23 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

10:36:04 Shawn Graham, Montana Teacher's Retirement System (TRS)

10:36:21 Dore Schwinden, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)

10:36:57 William Holahan, Montana Public Employees Retirement Association (MPERA)

10:37:24 Scott Demaros, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters (MSCOPFF)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

10:38:10 Rep. Walsh

10:41:01 Rep. Garner

10:41:37 Rep. Hayman

10:42:26 Rep. Garner

10:43:25 Chair McKamey

10:44:39 Pad McCracken, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

10:45:20 Rep. Dooling

10:46:50 Rep. Garner

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:47:30 Rep. Garner

10:49:38 Chair McKamey

10:50:20 Recessed

11:14:40 Reconvened with Rep. Smith present. Rep. Reksten, Rep. Frazer and Rep. Whitman were excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 317**

11:15:18 **Motion:** Rep. Greef moved that **HB 317 DO PASS.**

11:15:54 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Greef moved that **HB 317 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 14-1 by voice vote with Rep. Hill voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 287**

11:17:30 **Motion:** Rep. Kortum moved that **HB 287 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:17:48 Rep. Kortum  
11:18:02 Chair McKamey  
11:18:12 Rep. Walsh  
11:19:22 Chair McKamey  
11:19:08 Rep. Walsh  
11:19:29 Chair McKamey  
11:19:37 Rep. Kortum  
11:21:50 Chair McKamey  
11:22:25 Pad McCracken, LSD  
11:22:58 Rep. Kortum  
11:23:10 Chair McKamey

11:23:46 **Motion:** Rep. Kortum moved that **HB 287 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT(sth32a02)**

**Discussion:**

11:24:05 Chair McKamey  
11:24:38 Pad McCracken, LSD  
11:26:08 Rep. Custer

11:26:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-0 by voice vote.

11:27:06 **Motion:** Rep. Kortum moved that **HB 287 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:27:29 Rep. Custer  
11:27:49 Rep. Hayman  
11:28:45 Rep. Greef  
11:29:39 Rep. Dooling  
11:30:09 Rep. Hill  
11:30:40 Rep. Walsh  
11:32:18 Rep. Custer  
11:34:17 Rep. Karjala  
11:35:08 Rep. Kortum

11:35:38 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-13 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Hayman, Rep. Karjala, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting aye. Rep. Bishop, Rep. Frazer, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Whitman voted by proxy.

11:37:11 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Custer moved that **HB 287 BE TABLED**. Motion carried 15-0 by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 277**

11:38:40 Rep. Greef  
11:39:32 Rep. Hayman  
11:39:38 Chair McKamey  
11:40:21 Rep. Binkley  
11:41:40 Chair McKamey

11:41:52 **Motion:** Rep. Greef moved that **HB 277 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

11:43:23 Rep. Dooling

11:44:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 12-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Hayman, Rep. Karjala, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. F. Smith and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Bishop, Rep. Frazer, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Whitman voted by proxy.

**Committee Business:**

11:46:49 Chair McKamey  
11:48:20 Rep. Custer  
11:49:26 Chair McKamey  
11:49:59 Pad McCracken, LSD  
11:50:07 Chair McKamey  
11:53:29 Rep. Karjala  
11:53:35 Chair McKamey  
11:55:29 Rep. Walsh  
11:56:17 Chair McKamey  
11:57:33 Pad McCracken  
11:58:13 Chair McKamey

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:58:33

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John Bergoffen, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([sth32aad.pdf](#))