

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Becky Beard, on February 18, 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. Alice Buckley (D)
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (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 372, 2/12/2021
Executive Action: HB 170

08:02:55 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway joined the meeting

HEARING ON HB 372

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:03:39 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 372, Eliminate business equipment tax.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

08:06:49 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)
08:11:05 Rose Bender, Montana Budget & Policy Center (MBPC)
08:13:25 Pat Mischel, self
08:14:23 Ella Smith, Montana Women Vote
08:15:34 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Testimony:

08:17:01 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
08:17:36 Kory Hofland, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:18:10 Rep. Kassmier
08:18:36 Rose Bender, MBPC
08:20:03 Rep. Malone
08:20:51 Bob Story, MonTax
08:21:02 Kory Hofland, DOR
08:21:27 Rep. Dunwell
08:22:46 Bob Story, MonTax
08:24:30 Vice Chair Fern
08:25:02 Bob Story, MonTax
08:25:48 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
08:26:17 Kory Hofland, DOR
08:26:49 Rep. Dunwell
08:28:34 Ella Smith, Montana Women Vote

Closing by Sponsor:

08:30:23 Rep. Ler

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 170

08:32:39 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

08:33:14 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 170 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

08:33:30 Rep. Malone

08:33:57 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 170 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(tah34a01)

Discussion:

08:34:22 Rep. Kassmier
08:34:36 Rep. Welch
08:35:59 Vice Chair Fern
08:37:05 Bob Story, MonTax
08:40:02 Vice Chair Fern
08:40:11 Megan Moore, LSD
08:40:59 Rep. Kassmier
08:41:24 Rep. Malone
08:41:30 Vice Chair Welch

08:42:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Trebas voting no. Rep. Abbott, Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Mitchell voted by proxy.

08:43:09 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 170 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

08:43:15 **Motion:** Rep. Marler moved that **HB 170 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(tah34a02)**Discussion:**

08:44:36 Vice Chair Welch
08:45:26 Rep. R. Knudsen
08:45:42 Megan Moore, LSD
08:46:21 Vice Chair Fern
08:47:03 Jessie Luther, Mitsubishi
08:48:51 Rep. Marler
08:50:32 Rep. Thane
08:51:23 Jessie Luther, Mitsubishi

08:52:14 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-12 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting aye. Rep. Abbott, Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Mitchell voted by proxy.

08:54:00 **Motion:** Rep. Dunwell moved that **HB 170 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(tah34a03)**Discussion:**

08:54:30 Megan Moore, LDS
08:55:02 Rep. Dunwell
08:57:22 Vice Chair Welch

08:58:04 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-12 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting aye. Rep. Abbott, Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Mitchell voted by proxy.

08:59:37 Chair Beard
08:59:44 Rep. Kassmier
09:00:06 Rep. Marler
09:00:34 Vice Chair Fern
09:02:05 Rep. Dunwell

09:03:31 Vice Chair Welch
09:04:17 Rep. R. Knudsen

09:04:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 16-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Dunwell and Rep. Marler voting no. Rep. Abbott, Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Mitchell voted by proxy.

Committee Business:

09:06:07 Chair Beard
09:07:17 Megan Moore, LSD
09:09:13 Chair Beard
09:09:21 Rep. Malone
09:10:05 Vice Chair Fern
09:11:00 Chair Beard
09:11:21 Megan Moore, LSD
09:12:44 Vice Chair Fern
09:13:48 Rep. Brewster
09:14:15 Rep. Dunwell
09:15:18 Vice Chair Welch
09:17:30 Vice Chair Fern
09:18:11 Rep. Fielder
09:19:19 Chair Beard

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 09:20:02

Kathy Sangray, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([tah34aad.pdf](#))