

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones, on March 15, 2021 at 2:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Kenneth L. Holmlund, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Brad Tschida, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. David Bedey (R)  
Rep. John Fuller (R)  
Rep. Frank Garner (R)  
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Jim Keane (D)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Terry Moore (R)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)  
Rep. Joe Read (R)  
Rep. Vince Ricci (R)  
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Matt Regier, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Dan Bartel (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Jamie Bonilla, Committee Secretary  
Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch  
Joe Triem, Legislative Branch  
Anthony Nuno, 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 329, 3/12/2021; HB 403, 3/12/2021; HB 488, 3/12/2021; HB 630, 3/12/2021

**HEARING ON HB 329****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:18:00 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 329, Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

14:19:10 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office (GOV)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

14:20:00 Deborah Silk, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

14:22:26 Vice Chair Regier, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Mercer, and Rep. Bartel joined the meeting.

14:23:36 Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

**Informational Testimony:**

14:26:20 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

14:26:48 Rep. Hamilton

14:29:15 Paul Taylor, OPI

14:30:09 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter

14:30:33 Paul Taylor, OPI

14:31:04 Rep. Keogh

14:32:25 Glenn Oppel, GOV

14:33:19 Rep. Bedey

14:33:44 Vice Chair Caferro

14:34:31 Glenn Oppel, GOV

14:34:47 Rep. Vinton

**Closing by Sponsor:**

14:35:08 Rep. Vinton

**HEARING ON HB 403****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:37:19 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 403, Create "grow your own" teacher grant program.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

14:40:12 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootes (CSKT)

14:40:53 Angela McLean, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

14:42:09 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

14:42:59 Dianne Burke, Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC)

14:46:24 Laurie Little Dog, self

14:47:36 Vice Chair Regier left the meeting.

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

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

14:48:12 Rep. Hamilton  
14:48:42 Rep. Running Wolf  
14:48:56 Rep. Mercer  
14:49:59 Angela McLean, OCHE  
14:50:59 Rep. Mercer  
14:51:56 Rep. Running Wolf  
14:52:08 Angela McLean, OCHE  
14:52:38 Rep. Mercer  
14:53:01 Angela McLean, OCHE  
14:53:27 Rep. Windy Boy  
14:54:10 Rep. Hamilton left the meeting.  
14:54:50 Rep. Running Wolf  
14:55:02 Rep. Moore  
14:56:48 Rep. Running Wolf  
14:57:39 Rep. Keane  
14:58:12 Rep. Running Wolf  
14:58:49 Chair Jones  
14:59:17 Rep. Running Wolf

**Closing by Sponsor:**

14:59:27 Rep. Running Wolf  
  
15:00:59 Chair Jones left the meeting.  
15:01:08 Vice Chair Holmlund assumed the chair.

**HEARING ON HB 488****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:23 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 488, Revise license plate laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:03:09 Tassie Smith, Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE)  
15:03:38 Tamrah Chatriand, Department of Justice (DOJ)  
15:04:01 Jodi Stone, Department of Corrections (DOC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:04:24 Rep. Moore  
15:04:59 Rep. Dooling

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:05:21 Rep. Dooling

**HEARING ON HB 630****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:06:58 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 630, Appropriate CARES II funds, supplemental, and temporarily revised funding.

**[EXHIBIT\(aph51a01\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:12:18 Amy Sassano, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)  
15:15:02 Mack Long, Department of Transportation (MDT)  
15:15:51 Rhonda Lindquist, Office of the Public Defender (OPD)  
15:16:50 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)  
15:18:52 Natalie Smitham, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:19:38 Larry Flynn, Department of Transportation (MDT)  
15:20:07 Cheryl Cohen, Department of Commerce (COM)  
15:20:32 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:20:57 Rep. Nave  
15:23:09 Rep. Bedey  
15:24:23 Joe Triem, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
15:25:08 Rep. Bedey  
15:25:51 Rep. Nave  
15:27:03 Vice Chair Regier rejoined the meeting.  
15:29:11 Amy Sassano, OBPP  
15:29:46 Rep. Nave  
15:30:21 Rep. Mercer

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:32:56 Rep. Bedey  
  
15:33:34 Julie Johnson, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
15:35:24 Vice Chair Caferro  
15:35:36 Julie Johnson, LSD

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:36:27

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Lydia Balian, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([aph51aad.pdf](#))