

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: Chair Seth Berglee, on March 24, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Seth Berglee, Chair (R)
Rep. Fred Anderson, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch
Jesse Tack, 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 626, 3/15/2021; HB 642, 3/17/2021; SB 188, 3/18/2021

HEARING ON HB 626**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:22 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 626, Revise resident nonbeneficiary student reimbursement for tribal colleges.

[EXHIBIT\(edh58a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(edh58a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:09:49 Sandra Boham, Salish Kootenai College (SKC)

15:16:54 Sen. Shane Morigeau

[EXHIBIT\(edh58a03\)](#)

15:23:10 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:26:14 Keaton Sunchild, Western Native Voice

15:27:57 Adrian Jawort, Montana Native Vote

[EXHIBIT\(edh58a04\)](#)

15:30:02 Allison Reinhardt, Montana Associated Students (MAS)

15:30:46 Cory Sangrey-Billy, self

15:33:02 President Andrew Werk Jr., Fort Belknap Indian Community Tribal Council (FBIC)

15:38:05 Dr. Sean Chandler, Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:42:58 Shauna Lyons, Office of the Commission of Higher Education (OCHE)

15:43:20 David Yarlott Jr., Little Big Horn College (LBHC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:48:31 Rep. Running Wolf

HEARING ON HB 642**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:51:15 Rep. Laurie Bishop (D), HD 60, opened the hearing on HB 642, Establish a farm-to-school grant program at OPI.

[EXHIBIT\(edh58a05\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:57:21 Rep. Jane Gillette, self

15:59:39 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe; People's Food Sovereignty Program

16:01:34 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

16:02:18 Cole Mannix, Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition

[EXHIBIT\(edh58a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(edh58a07\)](#)

16:06:06 Dave Prather, Western Montana Growers Cooperative (WMGC)
16:08:22 Aubree Roth, self
16:11:01 Kerra Olson, self
16:13:44 Tom Tschida, North Plains Resource Council
16:14:50 Whitney Pratt, Farm Hands-Nourish the Flathead
16:16:48 Edward Ole Rate, self
16:18:04 Luca Zanoni, self
16:18:44 Rachael Jones, Farm to School of Park County
16:20:24 Patti Armbrister, self

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:22:44 Ken Bailey, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:23:00 Rep. Beard
16:24:05 Rep. Bishop
16:24:47 Rep. Beard
16:25:23 Rep. Bishop
16:25:47 Rep. McKamey
16:26:09 Patti Armbrister, self
16:26:26 Rep. McKamey
16:27:02 Patti Armbrister, self
16:27:46 Rep. McKamey
16:28:30 Patti Armbrister, self
16:28:52 Rep. Ler
16:29:18 Rep. Bishop
16:30:28 Rep. Ler
16:30:39 Rep. Bishop
16:31:08 Rep. Ler
16:31:34 Rep. Bishop
16:32:24 Vice Chair Funk
16:33:13 Patti Armbrister, self

Closing by Sponsor:

16:34:11 Rep. Bishop

16:37:05 Recessed
16:45:13 Reconvened

HEARING ON SB 188

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:45:27 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 188, Revise school teacher retirement with pension.

Proponents' Testimony:

- 16:48:37 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM); Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)
16:51:51 Jule Walker, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)

Opponents' Testimony:

- 16:54:54 Shawn Graham, Montana Teachers Retirement System (TRS)
EXHIBIT(edh58a08)

17:03:30 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
17:08:29 Marilyn Hamer, Montana Retired Educators Association (MREA)
17:09:48 Charlene Suckow, self

Informational Testimony: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

- 17:11:11 Chair Berglee
17:11:33 Shawn Graham, TRS
17:12:41 Chair Berglee
17:13:16 Shawn Graham, TRS
17:15:37 Rep. Thane
17:16:15 Shawn Graham, TRS
17:17:22 Rep. Thane
17:17:44 Shawn Graham, TRS
17:18:58 Rep. Thane
17:19:50 Sen. Lang
17:20:11 Rep. Thane
17:20:38 Sen. Lang
17:21:06 Chair Berglee
17:22:26 Shawn Graham, TRS
17:24:02 Vice Chair Funk
17:24:49 Shawn Graham, TRS
17:24:55 Vice Chair Funk
17:25:47 Sarah Piper, MFPE

Closing by Sponsor:

- 17:27:25 Sen. Lang

Committee Business:

- 17:31:54 Chair Berglee
17:31:58 Rep. Bishop
17:32:10 Vice Chair Funk
17:32:25 Joanne Kauzlarich, Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:32:48

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([edh58aad.pdf](#))