

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Becky Beard, on March 24, 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. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)  
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)  
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)  
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)  
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)  
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Megan Moore, Legislative Branch  
Jacquie Simmons, 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 621, 3/15/2021; HB 636, 3/16/2021; HB 639, 3/16/2021, SB  
214, 3/16/2021; SB 288, 3/16/2021  
Executive Action: HB 621, SB 288

**HEARING ON SB 288****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:02:20 Sen. Walt Sales (R), SD 35, opened the hearing on SB 288, Revise property exemption for agricultural processing facilities.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:04:50 Zach Coccoli, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)

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

08:05:48 Kory Hofland, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:06:19 Rep. Kerns  
08:07:06 Kory Hofland, DOR  
08:07:44 Sen. Sales  
08:08:33 Rep. Malone  
08:09:04 Kory Hofland, DOR  
08:10:18 Rep. Dunwell  
08:10:49 Sen. Sales

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:11:05 Sen. Sales

**HEARING ON HB 636****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:11:57 Rep. Fiona Nave (R), HD 57, opened the hearing on HB 636, Revise property tax rates for agricultural, commercial, and residential property.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:18:20 Rep. Reiger  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a01\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a02\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

08:24:12 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a03\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a04\)](#)

08:36:41 Rose Bender, Montana Budget & Policy Center (MBPC)  
08:37:26 Rep. Kassmier left the meeting

**Informational Testimony:**

08:38:13 Kory Hofland, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)  
08:38:39 Eric Dale, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:39:12 Rep. Malone  
08:39:55 Rep. Nave  
08:40:20 Eric Dale, DOR  
08:43:17 Vice Chair Fern  
08:44:05 Bob Story, MonTax

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:44:56 Rep. Nave

**HEARING ON HB 639****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:46:38 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 639, Revise laws related to adoption of a tax increment provision.

[EXHIBIT\(tah58a05\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

08:51:37 Brad Talcott, self  
08:56:49 Aimee Grmoljez, City of Billings  
08:58:56 Mike Hope, Aspen Land LLC  
09:03:37 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)  
09:07:56 Ellen Buchanan, Missoula Redevelopment Agency  
09:11:24 Sharon Haugen, City of Helena  
09:13:40 Daniel Ellison, Jefferson County Commission  
09:15:24 David Fine, City of Bozeman

**Informational Testimony:** None

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:18:33 Rep. Regier

**HEARING ON HB 621****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:20:11 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D), HD 32, opened the hearing on HB 621, Revise distribution of marijuana revenue and provide tribal govt allocations.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:25:09 Justin Depree, Fort Peck Tribes  
09:25:42 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT)  
09:26:16 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe  
09:26:51 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)  
09:28:01 Majel Russell, Crow Tribe; Fort Peck Tribes  
09:29:14 Preston Parish, Montana Budget & Policy Center (MBPC)  
09:30:46 Loni Taylor, Chippewa Cree Tribe

09:32:16 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote  
09:33:11 Danielle Vazquez, self  
09:34:00 Iko'tsimiskimaki Beck, Indigenous Organizers Collective of Montana (IOCMT)  
09:34:26 Laurie Little Dog, self

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:36:09 Vice Chair Fern  
09:36:47 Rep. Windy Boy  
09:42:23 Rep. R. Knudsen  
09:43:12 Mejel Russell, Crow Tribe; Fort Peck Tribes  
09:43:46 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway  
09:44:19 Rep. Windy Boy  
09:45:28 Rep. Malone  
09:45:54 Rep. Windy Boy

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:46:42 Rep. Windy Boy

**HEARING ON SB 214**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:48:21 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 214, Revise laws related to temporary tribal property tax exemption.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:54:40 Gale Decker, Commission Lake County  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a06\)](#)

10:05:29 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

10:07:58 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a07\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a08\)](#)

10:13:22 Chairwoman Shelly Fyant, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe (CSKT)  
10:18:06 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe (CSKT)  
10:23:14 Jestin Depree, Fort Peck Tribes  
10:23:59 Kaci Walette, Fort Peck Tribes  
10:25:50 Adrian Jawort, Montana Native Vote  
10:28:01 Frank Gourneau, Fort Peck Tribes  
10:29:10 Majel Russell, Apsaalooke Nation; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe  
10:34:23 Dan Wenner, Fort Peck Tribes  
[EXHIBIT\(tah58a09\)](#)

10:37:44 Georgett Boggio, Crow Tribe; Fort Peck Tribes

10:38:34 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

**EXHIBIT(tah58a10)**

10:41:19 Daliyah Killsback, Western Native Voice

10:42:29 Keaton Sunchild, Western Native Voice

10:43:24 Commissioner Mary Jo Bremner, Glacier County

10:44:33 Preston Parish, Montana Budget & Policy Center (MBPC)

10:46:20 Danielle Vasquez, self

10:47:02 Andy Werk Jr., Fort Belknap Indian Community

**EXHIBIT(tah58a11)**

10:49:56 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote

10:50:34 Margaret Bentwood, League of Women Voters of Montana

**EXHIBIT(tah58a12)**

10:51:13 Rep. Kassmier joined the meeting

10:51:36 Iko'tsimiskimaki Beck, Indigenous Organizers Collective of Montana (IOCMT)

**Informational Testimony:**

10:52:47 Kory Hofland, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:53:22 Sen. Hertz

10:58:39 Recessed

11:16:11 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 621**

11:16:20 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 621 DO PASS.**

11:16:30 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Kassmier made a substitute motion that **HB 621 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. Abbott and Rep. Marler voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 288**

11:18:03 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 288 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:18:17 Rep. Kerns

11:18:40 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Dunwell voting no. Rep. Abbott and Rep. Marler voted by proxy. Rep. Buckley will carry the bill.

11:20:43 Vice Chair Fern  
11:21:13 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
11:22:19 Chair Beard  
11:23:37 Vice Chair Fern  
11:24:25 Vice Chair Welch  
11:24:58 Vice Chair Fern  
11:25:09 Chair Beard  
11:26:45 Rep. Dunwell  
11:26:50 Chair Beard

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:27:38

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Kathy Sangray, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([tah58aad.pdf](#))