

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Becky Beard, on March 25, 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. Joshua Kassmier (R)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)  
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)

**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 638, 3/22/2021; HB 646, 3/22/2021; HB 650, 3/22/2021; HB 654, 3/22/2021  
Executive Action: HB 636, HB 639

**HEARING ON HB 638****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:02:40 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 638, Provide for property tax fairness credit.

08:10:25 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway joined the meeting

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

08:10:53 Lee Baerlocher, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:11:20 Rep. Brewster  
08:11:35 Vice Chair Fern  
08:11:40 Rep. Thane  
08:12:02 Vice Chair Fern  
08:13:31 Rep. Malone  
08:14:19 Vice Chair Fern  
08:14:38 Chair Beard

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:14:58 Vice Chair Fern

**HEARING ON HB 650****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:17:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton (D), HD 61, opened the hearing on HB 650, Establish business income and venture capital credits.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:25:39 Will Price, Next Frontier Capital  
08:29:58 Patrick LaPointe, Frontier Angels

**EXHIBIT(tah59a01)**

08:38:20 Robert Goodwin, Montana Bioscience Association; Vibliome Therapeutics  
08:41:34 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce  
08:43:41 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development (BSED)  
08:45:02 Dan Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce  
08:46:10 Jessica Baldwin, Cardsetter  
08:47:17 Stephen Dimock, WebBuy  
08:50:05 Taylor Margot, Charm  
08:52:00 Jackie Culver, Neuro ID  
08:53:53 Jessica Baldwin, Cardsetter  
08:55:44 Kevin Scharfe, self  
08:57:24 Sarah Moyer, 2Revol

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

08:58:40 Lee Baerlocher, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:59:25 Vice Chair Fern  
09:00:22 Patrick LaPointe, Frontier Angels  
09:02:24 Rep. Malone  
09:02:55 Robert Goodwin, Montana Bioscience Association; Vibliome Therapeutics  
09:05:05 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway  
09:05:52 Rep. Hamilton  
09:06:15 Rep. Thane  
09:06:36 Rep. Hamilton  
09:08:17 Rep. Malone  
09:10:13 Rep. Hamilton  
09:10:38 Vice Chair Fern  
09:12:01 Will Price, Next Frontier Capital

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:17:15 Rep. Hamilton

**HEARING ON HB 646****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:20:23 Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D), HD 84, opened the hearing on HB 646, Generally revise environmental, tax, and labor laws.

**[EXHIBIT\(tah59a02\)](#)****Proponents' Testimony:**

09:29:05 Russell Doty, self  
09:33:54 David Saslav, self  
09:36:34 Thomas Towe, self  
09:42:10 Mary Catherine Dunphy, self  
09:45:06 Lucretia Humphrey, self  
09:46:18 Dolores Andersen, self  
09:49:09 Marian Kummer, self  
09:51:33 Sharon Patton-Griffin, self  
09:53:11 Pam Ellis, self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:55:08 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)  
09:59:32 Charles Robinson, Montana Electric Cooperatives (MECA); Treasure State Resource Association (TSRA)  
10:02:30 Sean Slanger, Naturener  
10:03:37 Melissa Shannon, Broad Reach Power

**Informational Testimony:**

10:05:31 Lee Baerlocher, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

10:05:52 Vice Chair Fern  
10:07:11 Thomas Towe  
10:10:50 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway  
10:11:45 Russell Doty

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:13:35 Rep. Dunwell  
  
10:15:00 Rep. Kassmier left the meeting

**HEARING ON HB 654****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:17:49 Rep. Andrea Olsen (D), HD 100, opened the hearing on HB 654, Increase funding for higher education.

[EXHIBIT\(tah59a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah59a04\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:27:09 Jack Rinck, Association of Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)  
10:28:20 Rachel Schmidt, Association of Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)  
10:28:47 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)  
10:30:30 Allison Reinhardt, Montana Association of Students (MAS)  
10:31:10 Maggie Bornstein, Association of Students University of Montana (ASUM)  
10:33:20 Grace Benasutti, Forward Montana

**Opponents' Testimony:**

10:34:40 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)

[EXHIBIT\(tah59a05\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

10:41:26 Lee Baerlocher, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

10:41:49 Rep. Dunwell  
10:42:20 Bob Story, MonTax  
10:44:03 Rep. Thane  
10:45:11 Bob Story, MonTax

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:46:41 Rep. Olsen  
  
10:51:31 Rep. Fielder  
  
10:51:46 Recessed  
10:14:00 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 636**

11:14:47 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 636 DO PASS.**

11:14:58 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Fern made a substitute motion that **HB 636 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Dunwell, Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Kassmier voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 639**

11:16:29 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 639 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:16:42 Vice Chair Fern

11:17:55 Rep. Malone

11:18:18 **Vote:** Motion failed 2-16 by roll call vote with Rep. Kerns and Rep. Trebas voting aye. Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Kassmier voted by proxy.

11:19:48 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **HB 639 BE TABLED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Kassmier voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 638**

11:20:44 **Motion:** Rep. Fern moved that **HB 638 DO PASS.**

11:20:53 **Motion:** Rep. Fern moved that **HB 638 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT**(tah59a06)

**Discussion:**

11:21:15 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

11:22:58 Vice Chair Fern

11:23:57 Rep. Dunwell

11:24:20 Vice Chair Fern

11:24:48 Rep. Malone

11:25:30 Vice Chair Fern

11:26:37 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Dunwell voting no. Rep. C. Hinkle and Rep. Kassmier voted by proxy.

11:28:00 **Motion:** Rep. Fern moved that **HB 638 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

11:28:16 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen made a substitute motion that **HB 638 BE POSTPONED PENDING A REVISED FISCAL NOTE.**

11:28:51 Megan Moore, LSD

11:29:18 Chair Beard

11:29:41 Rep. Marler

11:29:53 Chair Beard

11:30:20 Vice Chair Fern  
11:31:00 Chair Beard  
11:31:46 Vice Chair Fern  
11:32:36 Rep. R. Knudsen  
11:32:50 Megan Moore, LSD  
11:33:21 Chair Beard  
11:33:34 Rep. Marler  
11:33:52 Vice Chair Fern

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:34:21

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Kathy Sangray, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([tah59aad.pdf](#))