

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: Chair Seth Berglee, on March 29, 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. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Mark Thane (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 644, 3/17/2021; SB 243, 3/23/2021; HB 663, 3/24/2021;
HJ 25, 3/24/2021

HEARING ON HB 644**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:52 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D), HD 32, opened the hearing on HB 644, Establish tribal computer programming boost scholarship program.

EXHIBIT(edh61a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:05:27 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office (GOV)
15:08:02 John Paxton, Montana State University (MSU)
15:11:14 Misty Kuhl, Governor's Office (GOV)
15:13:03 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
15:14:05 Adrian Jawort, Montana Native Vote (MNV)
15:16:47 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)
15:17:22 Matt Kuntz, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
15:20:23 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:21:04 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
15:21:32 Rep. McKamey joined the meeting.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:21:48 Chair Berglee
15:22:04 Rep. Windy Boy

Closing by Sponsor:

15:23:08 Rep. Windy Boy

HEARING ON HB 663**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:24:01 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 663, Generally revising school funding to increase GTB and lower property taxes.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:25:55 Lance Melton, Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC)
15:27:00 Rep. Thane joined the meeting.
15:28:18 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:29:25 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:29:49 Rep. Novak
15:30:35 Rep. Ler
15:31:15 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
15:31:28 Rep. Ler
15:31:45 Rep. Bertoglio joined the meeting.
15:32:00 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
15:32:37 Rep. Ler
15:32:43 Rep. Reksten
15:33:18 Paul Taylor, OPI

Closing by Sponsor:

15:35:20 Rep. Ler

HEARING ON SB 243**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:35:56 Sen. Bryce Bennett (D), SD 50, opened the hearing on SB 243, Create presumption of domicile for students who join Montana National Guard.

Proponents' Testimony

15:38:56 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
15:40:06 Roger Hagan, Montana National Guard Association (MTNGA)
15:40:59 Gary White, American Legion of Montana
15:41:25 Rachel Schmidt, Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)
15:41:48 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
15:42:15 Allison Reinhardt, Montana Associated Students (MAS)
15:42:44 Jake Bernal, self
15:43:44 Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:44:24 Shauna Lyons, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

15:44:56 Rep. Bennett

HEARING ON HJ 25**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:47:01 Rep. Sara Novak (D), HD 77, opened the hearing on HJ 25, Request interim study of student debt.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:50:24 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
15:54:35 Rep. Beard left the meeting.
15:55:32 Rachel Schmidt, Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)
15:56:40 Allison Reinhardt, Montana Associated Students (MAS)
15:57:42 Ruthie Barbour, Forward Montana
15:59:43 Karen Smith, Montana's Credit Unions (MCU)

[EXHIBIT\(edh61a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:01:38 Shauna Lyons, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:01:59 Rep. Reksten
16:02:18 Rep. Novak
16:02:36 Chair Berglee
16:03:18 Rep. Reksten
16:03:51 Rep. Novak
16:04:29 Chair Berglee

Closing by Sponsor:

16:05:08 Rep. Novak

Committee Business:

16:06:29 Chair Berglee
16:06:40 Rep. Windy Boy
16:07:20 Chair Berglee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
16:08:00

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([edh61aad.pdf](#))