

MINUTES
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones, on March 30, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Brad Tschida, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Dan Bartel (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. Vince Ricci (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Kenneth L. Holmlund, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Matt Regier, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jamie Bonilla, Committee Secretary
Julie Johnson, 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 421, 3/26/2021; HB 629, 3/28/2021; HB 279, 3/28/2021; HB 678, 3/29.2021; HB 686, 3/29/2021.

Executive Action: HB 686, HB 693, HB 403

HEARING ON HB 629**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:21:40 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 629, Provide for job creation tax credits.

Proponents:

09:25:18 Mark Taylor, Idaho Forrest Group
09:27:32 Chair Jones

Opponents: None

Informational Testimony:

09:29:11 Scott Eychner, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
09:29:36 Brian Olsen, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:29:45 Rep. Tschida
09:30:11 Rep. Fern
09:30:17 Chair Jones
09:30:23 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter
09:30:59 Rep. Fern
09:31:35 Rep. Windy Boy
09:31:49 Brian Olsen, DOR
09:32:24 Chair Jones
09:33:06 Rep. Windy Boy
09:33:28 Scott Eychner, DLI
09:34:34 Chair Jones
09:34:38 Rep. Hamilton
09:35:21 Rep. Fern
09:36:39 Rep. Nave
09:37:08 Scott Eychner, DLI
09:37:32 Rep. Nave
09:37:44 Scott Eychner, DLI
09:38:10 Rep. Nave
09:39:04 Chair Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

09:39:51 Rep. Fern
09:40:51 Chair Jones

HEARING ON HB 279**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:41:38 Rep. Seth Berglee (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 279, Revise laws related to tax credit scholarship and innovative education programs.

Proponents:

09:44:27 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office (GOV)
09:45:24 Chair Jones

09:45:37 Ross Izard, ACE Scholarships

Opponents:

09:49:01 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

09:50:10 Debra Silk, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)

09:53:08 Diane Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

Further Proponents:

09:56:28 Martin Lueken, Fiscal Research and Education Center (FREC)

10:00:22 Chair Jones

Informational Testimony:

10:00:52 Kenneth Bailey, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

10:01:06 Brian Olsen, DOR

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:01:20 Rep. Fuller

10:01:47 Martin Lueken, FREC

10:02:54 Rep. Fuller

10:03:16 Rep. Berglee

10:03:45 Rep. Keogh

10:04:19 Rep. Berglee

10:05:51 Rep. Keogh

10:06:11 Rep. Berglee

10:07:03 Chair Jones

10:07:09 Rep. Hamilton

10:07:43 Rep. Berglee

10:08:00 Rep. Hamilton

10:08:35 Rep. Berglee

10:09:25 Rep. Hamilton

10:09:58 Rep. Berglee

10:10:44 Chair Jones

10:11:14 Rep. Berglee

10:11:39 Chair Jones

10:12:07 Rep. Berglee

10:12:47 Chair Jones

Closing by Sponsor: None

HEARING ON HB 421

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:13:17 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 421, Provide pension benefits for volunteer emergency care providers.

Proponents:

10:18:15 Rep. Smith

Opponents:

10:19:58 Dore Schwinden, Montana Public Employees Retirement Association (MPERA)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:21:12 Rep. Moore
10:21:57 Rep. Hinkle
10:23:59 Rep. Moore
10:25:04 Rep. Hinkle
10:27:19 Rep. Moore
10:28:29 Dore Schwinden, MPERA
10:29:48 Rep. Nave
10:30:15 Rep. Hinkle
10:30:31 Rep. Nave
10:31:28 Rep. Hinkle
10:32:54 Rep. Keane
10:33:36 Dore Schwinden, MPERA
10:34:12 Rep. Keane
10:34:37 Dore Schwinden, MPERA
10:34:40 Chair Jones
10:35:08 Rep. Hinkle
10:36:56 Rep. Jones
10:37:44 Rep. Hinkle
10:38:59 Chair Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

10:39:16 Rep. Hinkle

HEARING ON HB 678

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:42:53 Rep. Dan Bartel (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on HB 678, Authorize transfers and other necessary measures to implement HB 2 -section A. 2-18-101

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Informational Testimony:

10:46:56 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Divion (LFD)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

10:47:36 Rep. Bartel

HEARING ON HB 686**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:47:52 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 686, Implement provisions of HB2, Section B - HHS.

Proponents:

10:51:21 Erica Johnston, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
10:52:20 Beth Breneman, Disability Rights Montana

Opponents: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:55:15 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter
10:55:50 Rep. Regier
10:56:05 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter
10:56:15 Rep. Regier
10:56:40 Chair Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

10:56:51 Rep. Regier

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 686

10:57:28 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 686 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:57:40 Rep. Caferro

10:59:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 20-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh and Rep. Stewart Peregoy voting no. Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Nave, Rep. Tschida and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 693

11:01:15 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 693 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:01:24 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter
11:02:53 Rep. Windy Boy
11:03:01 Rep. Patelis
11:03:58 Chair Jones

11:04:01 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keane, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy and Rep. Windy Boy voting no. Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Tschida and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 403

- 11:05:43 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that **HB 403 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE.** Motion carried 20-0 by voice vote.
- 11:06:44 **Motion:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that **HB 403 DO PASS.**
- 11:06:59 **Motion:** Rep. Windy Boy moved **HB 403 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED** to strike \$500,000.00 on line 16, page 3 and insert \$1.00 and strike lines 21 and 22.

Discussion:

- 11:07:26 Julie Johnson, LFD
11:07:38 Rep. Windy Boy
11:08:37 Chair Jones
- 11:08:52 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote
- 11:09:08 **Motion:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that **HB 403 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

- 11:09:24 Rep. Holmlund
11:09:37 Rep. Windy Boy
11:09:42 Rep. Holmlund
11:9:54 Rep. Fuller
11:10:36 Rep. Windy Boy
11:11:21 Rep. Fuller
11:11:38 Rep. Windy Boy
11:12:00 Rep. Fuller
11:12:05 Chair Jones
11:12:15 Rep. Garner
11:12:37 Julie Johnson, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
11:13:25 Chair Jones
- 11:13:35 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Garner moved that **HB 403 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED** to set a six year sunset termination date. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:14:20 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that **HB 403 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried 19-5 by roll call vote with Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. M. Regier, Rep. Tschida and Rep. Vinton voting no. Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Mercer and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.
- 11:16:02 Chair Jones

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:16:51

Jamie Bonilla, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([aph62aad.pdf](#))