

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones, on April 1, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Kenneth L. Holmlund, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Matt Regier, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Brad Tschida, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Dan Bartel (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. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Vince Ricci (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. David Bedey (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Staff Present:

Joe Triem, Legislative Fiscal Division
Julie Johnson, Legislative Fiscal Division
Jamie Bonilla, Committee Secretary
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 637, 3/31/2021; HB 162, 3/31/2021
Executive Action: HB 162, HB 372, HB 625, HB 637, HB 656

09:11:22 Rep. Holmlund assumed role of Chair

HEARING ON HB 162

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:14:09 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), opened the hearing on HB 162, Eliminate state tax on social security income.

09:16:25 Rep. Caferro joined the meeting

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:17:18 Rep. Hamilton
09:17:42 Rep. Fielder
09:18:19 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting
09:18:32 Rep. Hamilton
09:18:56 Rep. Fielder
09:19:46 Rep. Hamilton
09:19:57 Rep. Fielder
09:20:49 Rep. Hamilton
09:20:59 Rep. Fielder
09:22:03 Rep. Fuller
09:22:21 Rep. Fielder
09:22:55 Chair Holmlund

Closing by Sponsor:

09:23:07 Rep. Fielder

HEARING ON HB 372

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:24:14 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 372, Eliminate business equipment tax.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Informational Testimony:

09:25:33 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:26:03 Rep. Hamilton
09:26:37 Rep. Ler
09:27:35 Rep. Hamilton

09:29:02 Rep. Ler
09:29:16 Rep. Windy Boy
09:30:33 Rep. Taylor, OPI
09:32:13 Rep. Windy Boy
09:33:17 Paul Taylor, OPI
09:33:40 Rep. Keane
09:34:05 Paul Taylor, OPI
09:34:35 Rep. Jones joined the meeting.
09:35:01 Rep. Keane
09:35:21 Paul Taylor, OPI

Closing by Sponsor:

09:36:07 Rep. Ler

HEARING ON HB 625**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:36:48 Rep. Dennis Lenz (R), HD 53, opened the hearing on HB 625, Revise laws relating to the child and family ombudsman.

09:37:51 Rep. Jones resumed role of Chair

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Informational Testimony:

09:38:08 Dana Toole, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:38:46 Rep. Caferro
09:39:13 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:40:22 Rep. Caferro
09:40:46 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:41:03 Rep. Caferro
09:41:17 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:42:13 Rep. Caferro
09:42:55 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:44:00 Rep. Caferro
09:44:08 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:44:41 Rep. Caferro
09:44:57 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:45:27 Rep. Keane
09:46:12 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:47:21 Rep. Keane
09:47:37 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:48:09 Rep. Keane
09:48:35 Dana Toole, DOJ
09:49:01 Rep. Caferro
09:49:35 Dana Toole, DOJ

09:50:01 Rep. Caferro

09:50:36 Chair Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

09:50:59 Rep. Lenz

HEARING ON HB 637

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:52:12 Rep. Seth Berglee (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 637, Generally revise fish, wildlife, and parks laws.

Proponents: None

Opponents:

09:54:46 Eric Melson, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (MHA)

EXHIBIT(aph64a01)

Informational Testimony:

09:53:05 Dustin Temple, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:56:48 Rep. Windy Boy

09:57:30 Rep. Kerr- Carpenter

09:58:07 Dustin Temple, FWP

09:58:19 Ron Jendro, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

09:59:15 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter

10:00:03 Rep. Windy Boy

10:00:29 Ron Jendro, FWP

10:01:31 Rep. Windy Boy

10:01:35 Ron Jendro, FWP

10:01:53 Rep. Keane

10:02:04 Dustin Temple, FWP

10:03:30 Rep. Keane

10:03:59 Dustin Temple, FWP

10:04:16 Rep. Tschida jointed the meeting

10:04:38 Rep. Keane

10:04:57 Dustin Temple, FWP

10:05:09 Rep. Keane

10:05:21 Rep. Bartel

Closing by Sponsor:

10:05:48 Rep. Berglee

HEARING ON HB 656

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

10:07:15 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB 656, Providing appropriations related to law enforcement within Flathead Reservation.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

Informational Testimony:

10:11:11 Nate Thomas, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:11:31 Rep. Tschida
10:11:59 Rep. Read
10:12:18 Rep. Tschida
10:12:27 Rep. Read
10:13:07 Rep. Tschida
10:13:32 Rep. Read
10:14:35 Rep. Windy Boy
10:15:20 Rep. Read
10:15:32 Rep. Windy Boy
10:16:01 Rep. Read
10:16:19 Rep. Windy Boy
10:16:32 Rep. Read
10:17:07 Rep. Windy Boy
10:17:23 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.
10:17:59 Chair Jones
10:18:15 Rep. Hamilton
10:18:58 Rep. Read
10:19:27 Rep. Hamilton
10:19:49 Rep. Read
10:23:28 Rep. Hamilton
10:24:01 Rep. Read
10:25:26 Rep. Hamilton
10:25:59 Rep. Read
10:26:12 Rep. Windy Boy
10:26:20 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.
10:26:39 Rep. Read
10:27:30 Chair Jones
10:27:35 Rep. Windy Boy
10:27:55 Rep. Read
10:28:28 Rep. Windy Boy
10:28:44 Chair Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

10:28:59 Rep. Read
10:30:24 Chair Jones

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 162

10:31:24 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 162 DO PASS.**

10:31:33 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 162 BE TABLED.**
Motion carried 23-1 by voice vote with Rep. Tschida voting no. Rep. Hopkins,
Rep. Patelis and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 372

10:32:29 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 372 DO PASS.**

10:32:41 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 372 BE TABLED.**
Motion carried 23-1 by voice vote with Rep. Hamilton voting no. Rep. Hopkins,
Rep. Patelis and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 625

10:33:18 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 625 DO PASS.**

10:33:30 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 625 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(aph64a02)

Discussion:

10:34:40 Rep. Windy Boy

10:35:12 Rep. Holmlund

10:35:26 Rep. Caferro

10:36:15 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fuller, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keane, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Stewart Peregoy and Rep. Windy Boy voting no. Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Patelis and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

10:37:36 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 625 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
Motion carried 17-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fuller, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keane, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Stewart Peregoy and Rep. Windy Boy voting no. Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Patelis and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 637

10:39:22 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 637 DO PASS.** Motion carried 18-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keane, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Stewart Peregoy and Rep. Windy Boy voting no. Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Patelis and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 656

10:42:04 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 656 DO PASS.**

10:42:52 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 656 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED** to reduce funding from \$2,191,621.00 to \$250,000.00 in the general fund with a six-year sunset. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Patelis and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

10:43:51 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **HB 656 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Patelis and Rep.
Vinton voted by proxy.

10:44:46 Chair Jones

10:47:01 Rep. Mercer

10:47:34 Julie Johnson, LFD

10:48:04 Chair Jones

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:48:12

Jamie Bonilla, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([aph64aad.pdf](#))