

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Seth Berglee, on April 7, 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. Moffie Funk, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Sara Novak (D)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Becky Beard (R)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)  
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Branch  
Rachel Foe, 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: SB 356, 4/1/2021  
Executive Action: SB 356

15:01:35 Recessed

15:32:35 Reconvened with Rep. Beard, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, Rep. McKamey, Rep. Ler present. Rep. Bishop was excused.

### **HEARING ON SB 356**

#### **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:32:40 Sen. Jen Gross (D), SD 25, opened the hearing on SB 356, Revise Montana parents as scholars program eligibility.

#### **Proponents' Testimony:**

15:36:05 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Public Interest Research Group (Mont-Pirg)

15:36:33 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Advocates for Children (MAC)

15:37:27 Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

#### **Opponents' Testimony:** None

#### **Informational Testimony:**

15:38:43 Gene Hermanson, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

#### **Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:39:15 Vice Chair Anderson

15:39:45 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

15:40:57 Rep. Reksten

15:41:09 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

15:41:22 Rep. Reksten

15:41:38 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

15:43:03 Rep. Reksten

15:43:20 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

15:44:02 Vice Chair Funk left the meeting.

15:44:12 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

15:44:20 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

#### **Closing by Sponsor:**

15:44:59 Sen. Gross

### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 356**

15:46:12 **Motion:** Rep. Anderson moved that **SB 356 BE CONCURRED IN.**

#### **Discussion:**

15:46:27 Rep. McKamey

15:47:18 Chair Berglee

15:47:22 Rep. McKamey

15:47:32 Chair Berglee

15:47:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 13-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Beard, Rep. Kerns, Rep. Ler and Rep. Mitchell voting no. Rep. Bishop, Rep. Funk, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Kerns, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy. Rep. Novak will carry the bill.

\* Action was reconsidered on SB 356. Therefore, Executive Action taken on SB 356 was not reported out of committee.

15:49:10 Chair Berglee

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:49:22

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Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([edh66aad.pdf](#))**