

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones, on April 22, 2021 at 3:30 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
Rep. Kenneth L. Holmlund, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Brad Tschida, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Dan Bartel (R)  
Rep. David Bedey (R)  
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Jim Keane (D)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)  
Rep. Terry Moore (R)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)  
Rep. Joe Read (R)  
Rep. Vince Ricci (R)  
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)

##### **Members Excused:**

Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Matt Regier, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. John Fuller (R)  
Rep. Frank Garner (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**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: SB 153, 4/22/2021; SB 159, 4/22/2021; SB 384, 4/22/2021; SB 399, 4/22/2021; SB 388, 4/22/2021

**HEARING ON SB 384****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:53:52 Sen. John Esp (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 384, Revise laws related to Aquatic Invasive Species hydroelectric fee.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:54:15 Lena Havron, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:54:42 Tom Ebzery, Avista

15:55:34 Mark Bostrom, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:56:31 Rep. Keane

15:57:34 Lena Havron, FWP

15:57:48 Rep. Hamilton

15:58:25 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting

15:59:41 Sen. Esp

15:59:57 Mark Bostrom, DNRC

16:00:16 Tricia Greiberis, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

16:00:49 Rep. Hamilton

16:01:01 Tricia Greiberis, DNRC

16:01:28 Lee Baerlocher, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:02:02 Sen. Esp

**HEARING ON SB 159****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:03:36 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 159, Personal Income Tax Relief Act.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:04:41 Director Kurt Alme, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

**EXHIBIT(aph77a01)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:06:46 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center

16:08:12 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote

16:09:14 Kelsen Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence

**Informational Testimony:**

16:10:05 Lee Baerlocher, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:10:16 Rep. Hamilton

16:11:37 Sen. Hertz  
16:12:07 Lee Baerlocher, DOR  
16:12:36 Rep. Hamilton  
16:12:54 Lee Baelocher, DOR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:13:42 Sen. Hertz

**HEARING ON SB 399**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:14:29 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 399, Generally revise and simplify income taxes.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:16:43 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center  
16:19:03 Rep. Fuller joined the meeting  
16:21:33 Kelsen Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault  
16:22:04 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting  
16:22:13 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote

**Informational Testimony:**

16:23:18 Aaron McNaye, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:23:46 Rep. Hamilton  
16:28:54 Sen. Hertz  
16:29:21 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
16:31:57 Aaron McNaye, DOR  
16:32:28 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
16:35:18 Sen. Hertz

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:35:52 Sen. Hertz

**HEARING ON SB 388**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:37:36 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 388, Provide for infrastructure through tax increment financing.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:39:40 Sen. Hertz

**HEARING ON SB 297****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:40:54 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB297, ConnectMT Act to establish broadband deployment.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:41:59 Mark Baker, Charter Communications and AT&amp;T

16:43:11 Aimee Germoljez, Verizon

16:44:13 Margaret Morgan, T-Mobile

**Opponents' Testimony:** None**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:45:57 Rep. Windy Boy

16:46:28 Rep. Keane

16:47:20 Aimee Germoljez, Verizon

16:47:30 Rep. Hamilton

16:53:38 Sen. Ellsworth

16:54:52 Rep. Nave

16:57:24 Rep. Bartel left the meeting

16:57:59 Sen. Ellsworth

16:59:42 Rep. Ricci

17:01:25 Sen. Ellsworth

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:01:46 Sen. Ellsworth

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 384**17:04:00 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **SB 384 BE CONCURRED IN.****Discussion:**

17:04:25 Chair Jones

17:05:23 Joes Triem, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

17:07:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 21-3 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton and Rep. Keogh voting no. Rep. Bartel, Rep. Garner, Rep. M. Regier and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 388**17:09:01 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **SB 388 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Bartel, Rep. Garner, Rep. M. Regier and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 159**

17:09:37 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **SB 159 BE CONCURRED IN**. 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. Bartel, Rep. Garner, Rep. M. Regier and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 399**

17:11:22 **Motion:** Rep. Holmlund moved that **SB 399 BE CONCURRED IN**.

**Discussion:**

17:11:29 Rep. Hamilton

17:12:56 **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. Bartel, Rep. Garner, Rep. M. Regier and Rep. Vinton voted by proxy.

17:14:12 Chair Jones

17:15:08 Rep. Keane

17:17:19 Rep. Hopkins

17:18:09 Chair Jones

17:18:38 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter

17:19:03 Chair Jones

17:19:06 Rep. Bedey

17:19:18 Chair Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:21:34

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Cristen Friede, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([aph77aad.pdf](#))