

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Daniel R. Salomon, on March 15, 2021 at 2:47 PM, in Room 422  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Daniel R. Salomon, Chair (R)  
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

**Members Present by Video Zoom Conference:**

Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary  
Padraic McCracken, Legislative Branch  
Lindsey Bales, 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 186, 3/10/2021; HB 454, 3/10/2021; HB 543, 3/10/2021; HB 611, 3/10/2021

Executive Action:  
HB 89 - Be Concurred In  
HB 192 - Be Concurred In

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 89**

14:48:19 **Motion:** Sen. Tempel moved that **HB 89 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:48:30 Chair Salomon

14:48:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Bogner and Sen. Hertz voted by proxy. Sen. Salomon will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 179**

14:49:34 **Motion:** Sen. Tempel moved that **HB 179 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:49:47 Chair Salomon

14:50:18 **Motion:** Sen. Tempel moved that **HB 179 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:50:37 Padraic McCracken, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

14:52:39 Sen. Manzella

14:53:38 Without objection, Sen. Tempel withdrew the **BE AMENDED** motion.

14:53:56 Chair Salomon

14:54:06 Sen. Manzella

14:54:29 Chair Salomon

14:54:54 Mr. McCracken, LSD

14:55:41 Chair Salomon

14:55:42 Without objection, Sen. Tempel withdrew the **BE CONCURRED IN** motion.

14:55:50 Sen Bogner entered the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 192**

14:56:26 **Motion:** Sen. Tempel moved that **HB 192 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:56:36 Chair Salomon

14:56:50 Sen. McClafferty left the meeting.

14:57:05 Sen. Manzella

14:57:19 Sen Hertz entered the meeting.

14:57:52 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-2 by voice vote with Sen. Manzella and Sen. Webber voting no. Sen. McClafferty voted by proxy. Sen. Regier will carry the bill.

**HEARING ON HB 186**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:59:39 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB186, Generally revise laws related to teacher certification.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:03:17 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

15:03:45 Sen. McClafferty entered the meeting.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:05:38 McCall Flynn, Montana Board of Public Education (MBPE)  
[EXHIBIT\(eds51a01\)](#)

15:09:34 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)  
[EXHIBIT\(eds51a02\)](#)

15:13:53 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)  
[EXHIBIT\(eds51a03\)](#)

15:18:15 Diane Fladmo, Montana Federation of Public Employees  
[EXHIBIT\(eds51a04\)](#)

**Additional Testimony Received:**

[EXHIBIT\(eds51a05\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:20:28 Sen. Hertz  
15:20:49 Mr. Parman, MREA  
15:20:57 Sen. Hertz  
15:23:06 Ms. Flynn, MBPE  
15:23:58 Sen. O'Brien  
15:25:06 Mr. Melton, MTSBA  
15:27:38 Sen. O'Brien  
15:28:28 Mr. Miller, SAM  
15:33:23 Sen. Tempel  
15:34:19 Mr. Melton  
15:34:44 Sen. Sweeney  
15:37:50 Mr. Parman  
15:40:24 Sen. Hertz  
15:40:50 Rep. Kerns  
15:41:32 Sen. Webber  
15:42:26 Mr. Melton

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:43:36 Rep. Kerns

**HEARING ON HB 543**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:50:14 Rep. Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB543, Revise laws related to school instruction on the Constitution and the Pledge.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:52:38 Roger Hagan, Montana Army National Guard; American Legion  
15:54:16 Steve Sem, citizen  
15:57:55 Ruth Rater, citizen  
16:01:16 Gary White, American Legion of Montana  
16:05:20 Elsie Arntzen, superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
16:07:23 Cindy Roscoe, citizen  
16:07:46 Carolyn Truscott, citizen  
16:09:06 Jesse Slaughter, citizen

**EXHIBIT(eds51a06)**

16:11:45 Connie Ciabatonni, citizen

**EXHIBIT(eds51a07)**

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**EXHIBIT(eds51a08)**

16:13:57 Sen. McClafferty entered the meeting.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:14:03 Dennis Parman, Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC)  
16:17:53 Laurie Little Dog, citizen  
16:20:56 McCall Flynn, Montana Board of Public Education (MBPE)

**EXHIBIT(eds51a09)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:23:19 Sen. Regier  
16:25:15 Rep. Phalen  
16:25:25 Sen. Manzella  
16:26:30 Rep. Phalen  
16:26:47 Sen. McClafferty  
16:27:27 Ms. Flynn, MBPE  
16:28:12 Sen. Hertz  
16:29:19 Ms. Flynn  
16:30:04 Sen. Webber  
16:31:22 Mr. Parman, MT-PEC  
16:32:10 Sen. Webber  
16:32:46 Sen. Sweeney  
16:37:21 Ms. Arntzen, OPI  
16:39:16 Sen. McClafferty  
16:39:31 Ms. Arntzen  
16:39:50 Chair Salomon

16:41:05 Ms. Arntzen  
16:41:37 Sen. McClafferty  
16:42:02 Rep. Phalen  
16:43:16 Sen. Webber  
16:44:12 Rep. Phalen  
16:44:22 Chair Salomon  
16:44:44 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association  
16:45:37 Rep. Phalen  
16:45:51 Chair Salomon  
16:46:05 Rep. Phalen

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:46:30 Rep. Phalen

**HEARING ON HB 611**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:48:31 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB611, Revise requirements for American flags at schools.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:50:07 Roger Hagan, Montana Army National Guard (MTNG); American Legion  
16:52:00 Fred Verzani, Montana Flag and Pole Company  
16:53:31 Elsie Arntzen, superintendent, Office of Public Instruction  
16:55:14 Gary White, American Legion

**Opponents' Testimony:**

[EXHIBIT\(eds51a10\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:56:51 Sen. McClafferty  
16:57:21 Mr. Hagan, MTNG  
16:57:35 Sen. Regier  
16:59:03 Mr. Hagan  
16:59:30 Sen. Webber  
17:00:05 Rep. Fitzgerald  
17:00:41 Sen. McClafferty  
17:02:09 Mr. Hagan

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:03:07 Rep. Fitzgerald

17:04:03 Brief Recess

17:09:03 Reconvened

**HEARING ON HB 454**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:09:26 Rep. Vince Ricci (R), HD 55, opened the hearing on HB454, Revise school tuition laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

17:10:29 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC)

**[EXHIBIT\(eds51a11\)](#)**

17:13:17 Jared Gage, citizen

17:19:01 Linda Filpula, superintendent, Laurel Public Schools

**[EXHIBIT\(eds51a12\)](#)**

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**[EXHIBIT\(eds51a13\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:23:50 Sen. McClafferty

17:24:09 Rep. Ricci

17:24:30 Mr. Melton, MTSBA; MT-PEC

17:25:39 Ken Bailey, Office of Public Instruction

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:26:20 Rep. Ricci

17:27:51 Chair Salomon

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:29 P.M.

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Charlene Devine, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([eds51aad.pdf](#))