

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: Chair Ryan Osmundson, on April 16, 2021 at 9:01 A.M., in Room 317
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Ryan Osmundson, Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. David Howard (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Carl Glimm (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Nadine Spencer, Committee Secretary
Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch
Heather Vande-Sandt, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Branch

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 279, 4/12/2021

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

09:05:09 Rep. Seth Berglee (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB279, Revise laws related to tax credit scholarship and innovative education programs.

09:06:08 Sen. Ellis

Proponents' Testimony:

09:06:57 Glenn Oppel, policy director, Governor's office

09:08:35 Kendra Espinoza, Kalispell

09:10:49 Ross Izard, vice president policy and government affairs, ACE Scholarships

09:12:43 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation; also speaking on behalf of Matt Brower, Montana Catholic Conference

EXHIBIT(fcs73a01)

09:15:22 Jeri Anderson, Kalispell

09:18:02 Jason Bedrick, director of policy, EdChoice

EXHIBIT(fcs73a02)**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:20:55 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

09:22:51 Lance Melton, executive director, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

09:28:19 Dennis Parman, executive director, Montana Rural Education Association

09:29:16 Amanda Curtis, president, Montana Federation of Public Employees

09:33:18 Dianne Burke, executive director, Montana Quality Education Coalition

09:37:24 Kirk Miller, executive director, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

09:42:13 Denise Williams, executive director, Montana Association of School Business Officials

Additional Testimony Received:**EXHIBIT(fcs73a03)**

09:43:29 Sen. Ankney entered the meeting.

Informational Testimony:

09:43:40 Lee Baerlocher, Department of Revenue (DOR)

09:43:53 Jay Phillips, Office of Public Instruction

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:44:19 Sen. Cuffe

09:45:42 Mr. Miller, SAM

09:48:18 Sen. Cuffe

09:49:18 Mr. Miller

09:51:58 Sen. Cuffe

09:52:48 Mr. Miller

09:54:50 Sen. Cuffe

09:56:55 Mr. Miller

10:00:04 Sen. McNally

10:00:39 Mr. Melton, MTSBA
10:04:33 Sen. McNally
10:04:46 Mr. Melton
10:05:03 Sen. McNally
10:05:13 Mr. Melton
10:05:40 Sen. McNally
10:06:01 Rep. Berglee
10:08:38 Sen. McNally
10:09:10 Rep. Berglee
10:09:45 Sen. Boldman
10:10:48 Rep. Berglee
10:13:19 Sen. Boldman
10:14:17 Rep. Berglee
10:15:04 Sen. Boldman
10:15:15 Sen. Osmundson
10:15:33 Sen. Cuffe
10:15:43 Sen. Osmundson
10:15:55 Ms. Bender, MBPC
10:16:12 Sen. Boldman
10:16:22 Ms. Bender
10:16:41 Sen. Boldman
10:16:51 Ms. Bender
10:16:58 Chair Osmundson
10:17:12 Rep. Berglee
10:17:40 Sen. Bogner
10:18:11 Mr. IZard, ACE Scholarships
10:20:08 Sen. Bogner
10:20:16 Mr. IZard
10:21:04 Sen. Ellis
10:21:42 Mr. Baerlocher, DOR
10:22:56 Sen. Ellis
10:23:21 Mr. Baerlocher
10:23:46 Sen. Ellis
10:24:27 Mr. Baerlocher
10:24:54 Sen. Ellis
10:25:41 Ms. Bender
10:26:09 Sen. Ellis
10:26:25 Sen. Flowers
10:27:25 Mr. Baerlocher
10:28:02 Sen. Flowers
10:28:25 Mr. Baerlocher
10:29:17 Sen. Flowers
10:30:33 Rep. Berglee
10:34:57 Sen. Ellis
10:35:44 Rep. Berglee
10:36:13 Sen. Ellis
10:36:21 Mr. Baerlocher
10:36:52 Sen. Ellis
10:37:35 Mr. Baerlocher
10:38:18 Sen. Salomon

10:38:53 Rep. Berglee
10:39:40 Chair Osmundson
10:41:03 Mr. Baerlocher
10:41:33 Chair Osmundson
10:41:47 Sen. Ellis
10:42:07 Mr. Baerlocher

Closing by Sponsor:

10:42:19 Rep. Berglee

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:48 A.M.

Nadine Spencer, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fcs73aad.pdf](#))