

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Julie Dooling-R, on January 05, 2023 at 8:01 AM, in 455

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Julie Dooling, Chair (R)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Bob Phalen, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Denise Baum (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)  
Rep. Paul Green (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)  
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)  
Rep. Mallerie Stromswold (R)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)  
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

**Staff Present:** Heather Kellum, Secretary  
Rebecca Power, Research Analyst

**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 91 12/27/2022  
HB 117 12/27/2022  
HB 135 12/27/2022

Executive Action:

HB 56 DO PASS  
HB 81 DO PASS

HB 90 DO PASS  
HB 106 DO PASS  
HB 148 DO PASS

08:03:18

**Committee Discussion:**

08:03:29 Rep. Wirth

08:04:14 Rep. Julie Dooling

08:04:28 Rebecca Power

08:04:52 [EXHIBIT\(230105STHa1\)](#)

08:04:55 [EXHIBIT\(230105STHa2\)](#)

08:04:59 [EXHIBIT\(230105STHa3\)](#)

08:13:11 Rep. Michael Yakawich

08:13:39 Rep. Linda Reksten

08:14:59 Rebecca Power

08:15:06 Rep. Julie Dooling

08:15:36 Shawn Graham (Teachers' Retirement Association)

08:17:04 Rebecca Power

08:24:51 Rep. Michael Yakawich

08:26:25 Rebecca Power

08:26:33 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

08:26:48 Rebecca Power

08:32:36 Rep. Bob Phalen

08:32:57 Rebecca Power

08:33:56 Rep. Bob Phalen

08:34:26 Rep. Julie Dooling

08:36:42 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

08:37:25 Rep. Bob Phalen  
08:37:55 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
08:38:08 Rep. Bob Phalen  
08:38:30 Rep. Julie Dooling  
08:38:44 Rep. Bob Phalen  
08:39:00 Rep. Julie Dooling  
11:18:52

**Committee Discussion:**

11:18:57 Rep. Julie Dooling  
11:20:07 Heather Kellum  
11:20:37 Rep. Michael Yakawich  
11:21:29 Rep. Julie Dooling  
11:21:48 Rep. Kelly Kortum  
11:24:51 Rep. Denise Baum  
11:24:55 Rep. Julie Dooling  
11:24:56 Rebecca Power  
11:25:13 Rep. Julie Dooling

**HEARING ON HB 91 - Revise laws related to public library state aid**

**Opening Statement:**

08:39:42 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 91,  
Revise laws related to public library state aid.

**Discussion:**

08:40:04 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:42:05 Jenny Stapp, State Librarian, Montana State Library

08:45:10 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association, MLA

08:46:08 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns

08:46:34 Mike McGinley, Commissioner of Beaverhead County, Montana Association of Counties (MACO)

08:47:17 Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

08:48:00 Mitch Grady, Director, Livingston Park County Public Library

08:51:07 Alissa Wolenetz, Director of Lewistown Public Library, Montana Library Association (MLA)

08:54:21 Joy Bridwell, Library Director, Stone Child College Rocky Boy Community Library

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:57:35 Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting and Learning Librarian, Montana State Library

**Questions from Committee:**

08:57:59 Rep. Michael Yakawich

08:58:43 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library

09:00:16 Rep. Paul Green

09:00:41 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library

09:01:10 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

09:01:31 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library

09:02:43 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

09:02:52 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library

09:03:38 Rep. Bob Phalen

09:04:09 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

09:04:58 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library  
09:05:52 Rep. Bob Phalen  
09:06:33 Alissa Wolenetz MLA  
09:07:00 Rep. Bob Phalen  
09:07:19 Rep. Mallerie Stromswold  
09:07:31 Rep. Bob Phalen  
09:07:42 Rep. Tony Brockman  
09:08:04 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library  
09:09:15 Rep. Linda Reksten  
09:10:00 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library  
09:10:40 Rep. Linda Reksten  
09:11:23 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library  
09:12:02 Rep. Ed Stafman  
09:12:31 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library  
09:13:36 Rep. Ed Stafman

**Closing Statement:**

09:13:54 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 91.

**Discussion:**

09:13:58 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

**HEARING ON HB 117 - Generally revise working retiree laws under TRS**

**Opening Statement:**

09:16:04 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 117,  
Generally revise working retiree laws under TRS.

**Discussion:**

09:16:07 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:18:17 Shawn Graham, Executive Director, Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)

[EXHIBIT\(230105STHa4\)](#)

09:27:36 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

09:30:33 Dennis Parman, Executive Director of Montana Rural Education Association, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools (CAMP)

[EXHIBIT\(230105STHa5\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:36:48 Ken Bailey, Office of Public Instruction

**Questions from Committee:**

09:37:16 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

09:37:47 Shawn Graham, TRS

09:38:49 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

09:39:01 Rep. Linda Reksten

09:39:40 Sarah Piper, MFPE

09:40:36 Rep. Linda Reksten

09:40:55 Shawn Graham, TRS

09:43:01 Rep. Linda Reksten

09:43:31 Shawn Graham, TRS

09:45:29 Rep. Linda Reksten

09:45:35 Rep. Kelly Kortum

09:45:51 Shawn Graham, TRS

09:46:23 Rep. Bob Phalen  
09:46:41 Shawn Graham, TRS  
09:47:45 Rep. Bob Phalen  
09:48:22 Shawn Graham, TRS

**Closing Statement:**

09:48:59 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 117.

**Discussion:**

09:49:02 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R

**HEARING ON HB 135 - Revise administrative provisions of TRS**

**Opening Statement:**

09:50:11 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 135, Revise administrative provisions of TRS.

**Discussion:**

09:50:15 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:55:01 Shawn Graham, Executive Director, Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)

[EXHIBIT\(230105STHa6\)](#)

10:13:24 Dennis Parman, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools

10:16:42 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

10:17:11 Rep. Gary Parry

10:17:36 Shawn Graham, TRS  
10:18:01 Rep. Linda Reksten  
10:18:29 Shawn Graham, TRS  
10:20:49 Rep. Michael Yakawich  
10:21:24 Shawn Graham, TRS  
10:22:28 Rep. Michael Yakawich  
10:22:37 Shawn Graham, TRS  
10:23:22 Rep. Gary Parry

**Closing Statement:**

10:24:58 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 135.

**Discussion:**

10:25:01 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 56 - Extend the application of the bond validating act**

11:07:38 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 56 DO PASS.**

11:07:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 81 - Create new state veterans' cemetery**

11:09:06 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 81 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:32:24 Recessed  
10:41:26 Reconvened  
10:42:01  
11:09:36 Rep. Frank Smith  
11:09:52 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

11:10:10 Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
11:10:49 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
11:11:12 Rep. Julie Dooling  
11:11:16 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
11:12:27 Rep. Julie Dooling  
11:09:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 90 - Generally revise laws related to contracts for the state health plan**

11:13:42 **Motion:** Rep. Gregory Frazer moved that **HB 90 DO PASS.**  
**Discussion:**  
11:14:07 Rep. Gregory Frazer  
11:13:42 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 106 - Revise laws related to federal mitigation funding**

11:15:35 **Motion:** Rep. Kenneth Walsh moved that **HB 106 DO PASS.**  
**Discussion:**  
11:15:42 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
11:15:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 148 - Revise information technology board membership**

11:17:35 **Motion:** Rep. Denise Baum moved that **HB 148 DO PASS.**  
**Discussion:**  
11:17:40 Rep. Bob Phalen  
08:03:18  
11:18:52  
11:17:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:25:21

---

Heather Kellum, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230105STHaad\)](#)