

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Amy Regier-R, on January 10, 2023 at 8:00 AM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Laura Smith (D)
Rep. Zoey Zephyr (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)

Staff Present: Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary
Rachel Weiss, 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 37 12/30/2022

HB 83 01/04/2023

HB 161 12/30/2022

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 83 - Revise administration of Family Violence Prevention Services Act grants

Opening Statement:

08:02:15 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, opened the hearing on HB 83, Revise administration of Family Violence Prevention Services Act grants.

Proponent Testimony:

08:03:41 Erica Johnston, Department of Public Health and Human Services

08:05:34 Kelson Young, Montana Coalition Child Protection Reform

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:12:24 Natalia Bowser, Director of the Board of Crime Control

Questions from Committee:

08:13:00 Rep. Laura Smith

08:13:21 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

08:13:57 Rep. Tom France

08:14:04 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

08:14:37 Rep. Jennifer Carlson joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

08:14:42 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, closed the hearing on HB 83.

HEARING ON HB 161 - Generally revise computer crime laws

Opening Statement:

08:15:22 Rep. Fiona Nave (R), HD 57, opened the hearing on HB 161, Generally revise computer crime laws.

Proponent Testimony:

08:18:18 Brian Gortmaker, Department of Justice
08:20:37 Steve Cape, Coalition for Safety and Justice
08:23:06 Ann Dormady, Division of Criminal Investigation
08:24:26 Kirk Wagner, Montana Department of Justice, IT Department
08:24:56 Corey Swanson, Broadwater County Attorney
08:27:50 Jacob Griffith, Office of Consumer Protection

Opponent Testimony:

08:30:54 Ashely Sutton, TechNet, Washington and the North West
08:31:29 Rep. Caleb Hinkle left the meeting.

Questions from Committee:

08:33:34 Rep. Neil Duram
08:33:38 Cory Swanson, Broadwater County Attorney
08:35:06 Rep. Casey Knudsen
08:35:51 Cory Swanson, Broadwater County Attorney
08:36:58 Rep. Casey Knudsen
08:37:10 Kirk Wagner, MTDOJ
08:37:59 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
08:38:42 Kirk Wagner, MTDOJ
08:39:07 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway
08:39:52 Rep. Caleb Hinkle joined the meeting.
08:40:01 Cory Swanson, Broadwater County Attorney
08:41:18 Rep. Laura Smith
08:41:53 Brian Gortmaker, DOJ
08:42:24 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

08:42:57 Brian Gortmaker, DOJ
08:43:33 Rep. Laurie Bishop
08:44:14 Brian Gortmaker, DOJ
08:44:45 Rep. Zooey Zephyr
08:45:40 Kirk Wagner, MTDOJ
08:45:56 Rep. Brandon Ler
08:46:18 Cory Swanson, Broadwater County Attorney

Closing Statement:

08:47:59 Rep. Fiona Nave (R), HD 57, closed the hearing on HB 161.

HEARING ON HB 37 - Generally revise child abuse and neglect laws

Opening Statement:

08:57:54 Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R), HD 69, opened the hearing on HB 37, Generally revise child abuse and neglect laws.

Proponent Testimony:

09:20:43 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana
09:23:06 Rep. Casey Knudsen left the meeting.
09:25:45 James Reavis, Self
09:28:51 Danny Tenenbaum, Self
09:32:12 Tanina Heinzle, Self
09:35:41 Matt Furlong, Montana Child Protection Alliance
09:38:57 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance
09:42:36 David Kesler, Self
09:45:53 Jacob Handy, Self
09:49:59 Zilah Handy, Self

09:51:57 Elliot Handy, Self
09:52:59 Patrick Webb, Americans for Prosperity of Montana
09:53:28 Chiko Olson, Self
09:55:04 Natalece Washington, National Association of Counsel for Children
09:58:43 Rep. Tom France left the meeting.
09:58:59 Richard Wexler, National Coalition for Child Protection Reform
10:02:24 Kyla Hailstone, Montana Family Court Awareness Project
10:06:13 Alexis Chavarria, Self
10:08:28 Jessie Browning, Self

Questions from Committee:

09:24:15 Rep. Neil Duram
09:24:44 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU
09:25:21 Rep. Laura Smith
09:25:34 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU

Opponent Testimony:

10:09:36 April Barnings, Casa
10:12:07 Nikki Grossberg, Child and Family Services Division
10:16:25 Amanda O'Shea Tiernan, Montana County Attorney Association
10:20:46 Alison Dunne, Bitterroot Casa
10:23:41 Lauren Wilson, Montana American Academy of Pediatrics
10:24:25 Rep. Wayne Rusk joined the meeting.
10:26:38 Ashley Peterson, Livingston Casa
10:29:39 Bill Campbell, Casa
10:32:59 Loretta Miller, Lewis and Clark, Broadwater Casa
10:37:45 Melanie Symmins, Casa

10:39:24 Jerry Hill, Casa
10:42:32 Glenda Noise, Gallatin Casa
10:45:02 John Larson, Judicial District 4
10:48:25 Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association
10:52:03 Beth Brennenmen, Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
10:54:55 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriff and Peace Officers Association
10:56:17 Mary Barry, Children's Alliance of Montana
10:59:55 Benjamin Wagner, Self
11:03:52 Margi Schmidt, Casa Can - Great Falls
11:07:02 Karen Townsend, Montana Casa, GAL Association
11:09:53 Ashley Milsop, Self
11:12:58 Cheryl Arasim, Bitterroot CASA

Informational Witness Testimony:

11:16:42 Russ Miner, Casa, GAL
11:17:49 Dennis Lenz, SD 27
11:18:33 Brian Smith, Office of the Public Defender
11:19:12 Buddy Rutzke, Office of the Public Defender
11:20:16 Kelly Driscoll, Office of the Public Defender

Questions from Committee:

11:21:29 Rep. Laura Smith
11:22:18 Amanda O'Shea Tiernan
11:24:47 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
11:25:19 Rep. Jennifer Carlson-R
11:26:31 Rep. Caleb Hinkle
11:26:47 Nikki Grossberg, CFSD

11:27:27 Buddy Rutkze, MTOPD
11:27:33 Rep. Tom France
11:28:13 Rep. Jennifer Carlson-R
11:33:53 Rep. Tom France
11:34:05 Bruce Spencer, MJA
11:36:12 Rep. Laura Smith
11:36:44 Bruce Spencer, MJA
11:37:41 Rep. Neil Duram
11:37:51 Benjamin Wagner, Self
11:42:42 Rep. Laurie Bishop
11:43:20 Buddy Rutkze, MTOPD
11:48:56 Rep. Laura Smith
11:49:34 Rep. Jennifer Carlson-R
11:51:36 Rep. Laurie Bishop
11:52:29 John Larson, District 4 Judge
11:57:06 Nikki Grossberg, CFSD
11:58:51 Rep. Laura Smith
12:00:02 Nikki Grossberg, CFSD
12:00:44 Rep. Neil Duram
12:01:50 John Larson, District 4 Judge
12:04:01 Rep. Greg Kmetz

Closing Statement:

12:04:59 Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R), HD 69, closed the hearing on HB 37.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:15:43

Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230110JUHaad\)](#)