

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

Call to Order: Chair Fred Anderson-R, on January 11, 2023 at 2:59 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)

Staff Present: Rose Harmon, Secretary
Amanda Persons, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Laura Sankey Keip, 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 171 01/09/2023

Executive Action:

HB 36 DO PASS

HB 15 DO PASS

15:01:37 **Committee Discussion:** Opening statements Chair Anderson, Exhibit 1

15:02:13 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:03:03 Chair Fred Anderson

15:03:12 Rep. Lee Deming

15:03:42 Rep. Melissa Romano

15:04:12 Chair Fred Anderson

HEARING ON HB 171 - Revise education laws related to residential treatment facilities

Opening Statement:

15:04:54 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 171, Revise education laws related to residential treatment facilities.

Proponent Testimony:

15:09:18 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:12:00 Tom Livers, Shodair Children's Psychiatric Hospital

15:13:10 Matt Bugni, CEO of AWARE

15:14:33 ML Rutherford, Director/Principal, Intermountain Children's Home

15:15:35 Mike Chavers, CEO, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch

Opponent Testimony:

15:18:02 Tal Goldon, Supervising Attorney for Disability Rights

[EXHIBIT\(230111EDHa1\)](#)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:32:27 Jay Phillips, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:33:25 Megan Peel, Bureau Chief, Children's Mental Health, DPHHS

Questions from Committee:

15:34:30 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

15:35:41 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:37:59 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
15:38:22 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:39:28 Chair Fred Anderson
15:39:39 Rep. Mark Thane
15:40:08 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:40:39 Rep. Mark Thane
15:40:49 Jay Phillips, OPI
15:41:14 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
15:41:31 Megan Peel, DPHHS
15:41:59 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
15:42:31 Tal Goldon, Disability Rights

Closing Statement:

15:43:44 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 171.

15:47:27 **Recessed**
15:58:46 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 36 - Revising school funding laws related to enrollment increases

16:03:09 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 36 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:03:58 Rep. Mark Thane
16:04:23 Chair Fred Anderson

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 15 - Implement K-12 Inflation

21:00:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 15 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:00:33 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:00:39 Chair Fred Anderson

16:00:47 Rep. Brandon Ler

14:10:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:07:31

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230111EDHaad\)](#)