

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Paul Fielder-R, on January 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM, in Rm 152

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Paul Fielder, Chair (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Tom Welch, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)  
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)  
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern (D)  
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Russel Miner (R)  
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

**Staff Present:** Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary  
Megan Moore, 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 189 01/12/2023  
HB 212 01/11/2023  
HB 222 01/12/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 189 - Revise property tax assistance program**

**Opening Statement:**

09:03:52 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 189, Revise property tax assistance program.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:07:30 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Policy Director (GOV)  
09:14:05 Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commission and Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
09:15:01 Robin Rude, Department of Revenue Property Assessment Division (DOR)  
09:16:11 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)  
09:16:53 Scott Reichner, AARP  
09:17:35 Melissa Shannon, Montana Housing Coalition  
09:18:07 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)  
09:18:35 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish  
09:19:00 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition  
09:20:32 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center  
09:21:42 George Harris, Montana Coal Council

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:23:24 Dylan Cole

**Questions from Committee:**

09:24:18 Rep. Dave Fern  
09:24:29 Kelly Lynch, MLCT  
09:25:53 Rep. Sue Vinton

09:26:02 Rep. Marty Malone

**Closing Statement:**

09:27:04 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 189.

**HEARING ON HB 222 - Provide rebates of property taxes paid on a principal residence**

**Opening Statement:**

09:28:49 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB 222, Provide rebates of property taxes paid on a principal residence.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:32:52 Mark Blasdel, Governors' Office (GOV)

[EXHIBIT\(230117TAHa1\)](#)

09:36:54 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association

[EXHIBIT\(230117TAHa2\)](#)

09:40:16 Scott Reichner, Self

09:41:30 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

09:42:24 Mellissa Shannon, Montana Housing Coalition

09:45:18 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

09:45:49 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

09:46:11 Darryl James, MT Infrastructure Coalition

09:48:26 George Harris, Montana Coal Council

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:55:01 Micah Christensen, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:56:17	Rep. Sue Vinton
09:56:21	Heather O'Loughlin
09:57:15	Rep. Dave Fern
09:57:19	Rep. Tom Welch-R
09:58:34	Rep. Dave Fern
09:58:39	Kelley Lynch, MLCT
10:01:03	Rep. Scot Kerns
10:01:32	Rep. Tom Welch-R
10:02:41	Rep. Tanner Smith
10:03:24	Dylan Cole
10:04:10	Rep. Mark Thane
10:04:46	Rep. Tom Welch-R
10:05:22	Rep. Sherry Essmann
10:06:45	Dylan Cole
10:07:55	Rep. Sherry Essmann
10:08:15	Rep. Jill Cohenour
10:08:29	Rep. Sherry Essmann
10:08:58	Kory Hofland, DOR
10:09:45	Rep. Alice Buckley
10:10:47	Mark Blasdel, GOV
10:12:04	Rep. Jill Cohenour
10:13:06	Mark Blasdel, GOV
10:15:05	Rep. Marty Malone

10:15:31 Kory Hofland, DOR  
10:16:27 Rep. Marilyn Marler  
10:17:33 Mark Blasdel, GOV  
10:18:00 Rep. Paul Fielder  
10:18:44 Micah Christiansen, DOR  
10:19:41 Dylan Cole  
10:20:30 Rep. Paul Fielder

**Closing Statement:**

10:20:46 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, closed the hearing on HB 222.

**HEARING ON HB 212 - Increase business equipment tax exemption**

**Opening Statement:**

10:28:12 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 212, Increase business equipment tax exemption.

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:30:04 Brendan Beatty, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)  
10:33:27 Trigg Cook, Montana Grain Growers Association  
10:35:12 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC) and Montana Manufacturing Association  
10:36:02 Rebecca Meyers, Billings Chamber of Commerce  
10:37:20 Leann Taylor, Department of Commerce  
10:38:32 Kory Hofland, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
10:39:57 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics  
10:40:48 Nicole Rolf, MT Farm Bureau Federation  
10:42:29 John Maxnus, Self

10:45:26 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Farm and Ranch  
10:46:58 Henry Kriegal, Americans for Prosperity  
10:48:00 Kerry Hagerberg, Bank Association  
10:49:21 Webb Brown, Dental Association  
10:49:54 Krista Evans, Commodities/Growers  
10:50:54 John Sonju, Mining Association  
10:51:22 Dwayne Williams, MT Trucking Association  
10:51:57 George Harris, MT Coal Council  
10:52:38 Jason toddhunter, MT Logging Association  
10:53:26 Rhonda Wiggers, Independent Businesses/Water Well Drillers Association  
10:54:27 Dave Gault, MT Petroleum Association  
10:54:57 Bob Story, MT Taxpayers Association  
10:58:16 Dan Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce  
10:59:44 Lorraine Clarni, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

**Opponent Testimony:**

11:01:07 Rose Bender, MT Budget and Policy Center

[EXHIBIT\(230117TAHa3\)](#)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

11:03:56 Paul Taylor

11:04:17 Dylan Cole

**Questions from Committee:**

11:05:01 Rep. Dave Fern

11:05:28 Brendan Beatty, DOR

[EXHIBIT\(230117TAHa4\)](#)

**Closing Statement:**

11:08:26 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 212.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 14:10:25

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Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230117TAHaad\)](#)