

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones-R, on January 18, 2023 at 3:03 PM, in 102

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Bob Keenan, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)  
Rep. Terry Falk (R)  
Rep. Douglas Flament (R)  
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)  
Rep. Terry Moore (R)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Rep. Joe Read (R)  
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. David Bedey (R)  
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Matt Regier (R)  
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Staff Present:** Quinn Holzer, Fiscal Analyst  
Julie Johnson, Research Analyst  
Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

**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 28 01/17/2023  
HB 91 01/16/2023  
HB 117 01/16/2023

Executive Action:

HB 117 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 81 DO PASS  
HB 185 DO PASS

**HEARING ON HB 28 - Increase legislator per diem reimbursements for lodging and meals**

**Opening Statement:**

15:05:31 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R), HD 34, opened the hearing on HB 28, Increase legislator per diem reimbursements for lodging and meals.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:10:36 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch

**Questions from Committee:**

15:11:03 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:11:32 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch

15:12:28 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:13:29 Rep. Fiona Nave

15:13:51 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:14:10 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R), HD 34, closed the hearing on HB 28.

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

**Opening Statement:**

15:14:54 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 91, Revise laws related to public library state aid.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:17:12 Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

15:18:19 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association

15:18:53 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
15:19:38 Alissa Wolenetz, Montana Library Association (MLA)  
15:22:46 Tiffany Christensen, Self  
15:25:37 Joy Bridwell, Stone Child College/Rocky Boy Community Library  
15:27:51 Mitch Grady, Park County Library  
15:30:57 Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:33:03 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:33:13 Rep. Terry Moore  
15:33:50 Jennie Stapp, State Library  
15:34:29 Rep. Terry Falk  
15:34:47 Jennie Stapp, State Library  
15:35:02 Rep. Bill Mercer  
15:37:05 Jennie Stapp, State Library  
15:37:19 Vice Chair Bob Keenan  
15:41:56 Jennie Stapp, State Library  
15:42:08 Rep. Bill Mercer  
15:42:52 Jennie Stapp, State Library  
15:43:16 Rep. Mike Hopkins  
15:45:41 Alissa Wolenetz, MLA

15:46:10 Rep. Jerry Schillinger  
15:46:36 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R  
15:47:02 Jennie Stapp, State Library  
15:47:50 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:49:09 Joy Bridwell, Rocky Boy Tribal  
15:49:28 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

**Closing Statement:**

15:50:40 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 91.

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

**Opening Statement:**

15:51:28 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 117,  
Generally revise working retiree laws under TRS.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:53:12 Shawn Graham, Teachers Retirement System (TRS)  
15:58:20 Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association  
(MREA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:59:55 Ken Bailey, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:00:40 Rep. John Fitzpatrick  
16:01:15 Shawn Graham, TRS  
16:01:38 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
16:01:51 Shawn Graham, TRS

16:02:42 Rep. Bill Mercer  
16:02:52 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R  
16:03:16 Shawn Graham, TRS  
16:04:40 Rep. David Bedey  
16:04:53 Shawn Graham, TRS  
16:06:03 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
16:06:38 Shawn Graham, TRS  
16:08:59 Rep. Terry Moore  
16:12:03 Shawn Graham, TRS

**Closing Statement:**

16:12:49 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 117.

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

16:15:26 **Motion:** Rep. Michele Binkley moved that **HB 117 DO PASS.**

16:15:52 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **HB 117 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:17:23 Chair Llew Jones  
16:17:26 Rep. David Bedey  
16:18:55 Rep. Fiona Nave  
16:19:53 Rep. David Bedey  
16:20:13 Rep. Bill Mercer  
16:21:07 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy  
16:22:26 Chair Llew Jones  
16:25:47 **Motion:** Rep. Michele Binkley moved that **HB 117 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
16:25:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 21 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Regier, voting no.

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

16:27:41 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 81 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:28:11 Rep. Terry Moore

16:29:19 Rep. Joe Read

16:29:51 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:32:23 **Motion:** Rep. Jim Hamilton moved that **HB 81 TO TABLE.**

16:32:23 **Vote:** Motion failed 15 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting yes.  
Rep. Tuss, By Proxy

**Discussion:**

16:35:31 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

16:35:39 Rep. Michele Binkley

16:36:09 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:36:41 Rep. Terry Falk

16:39:23 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy

16:39:35 Rep. Fiona Nave

16:40:21 Rep. David Bedey

16:41:03 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 81 DO PASS.**

16:41:03 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 185 - Increase appropriation to MSU Fire Service Training School**

16:42:53 **Motion:** Rep. Michele Binkley moved that **HB 185 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:43:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:46:41 Rep. Fiona Nave

16:46:51 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:42:53

**Vote:** Motion carried 20 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Moore, Rep. Regier,  
voting no.  
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:51:59

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Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230118APHaad\)](#)