

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones-R, on January 23, 2023 at 3:04 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. John Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)  
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)  
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)  
Rep. Terry Moore (R)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Rep. Joe Read (R)  
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)  
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. David Bedey (R)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)  
Rep. Matt Regier (R)

**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 60 01/19/2023

HB 141 01/19/2023

HB 212 01/19/2023

HB 222 01/19/2023

HB 244 01/17/2023

HB 245 01/19/2023

Executive Action:

HB 60 DO PASS

HB 141 DO PASS

HB 244 DO PASS

15:05:35 Chair Jones

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

**Opening Statement:**

15:06:23 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 212, Increase business equipment tax exemption.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:07:38 Brendan Beatty, Director, Department of Revenue, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230123APHa1\)](#)

15:09:27 Alan Olson, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association

15:10:05 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Contractors Association

15:10:26 Liane Taylor, Administrator, Business MT Division, Department of Commerce (DOC)

15:10:55 Dwayne Williams, Montana Trucking Association, Montana Logging Association

15:11:19 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:12:05 Jon Sonju, Montana Mining Association

15:12:15 Rebecca Meyers, Montana Economic Developers Association, Billings Chamber of Commerce

15:12:56 George Harris, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council

15:13:17 Rhonda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Businesses

15:13:42 Robin Hogan, Montana Dental Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:14:17 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:15:12 Kory Hofland, Administrator, Property Assessment Division  
15:15:37 Dylan Cole, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
15:15:55 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:16:18 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
15:17:00 Dylan Cole DOR  
15:17:23 Paul Taylor OPI  
15:18:46 Rep. Paul Tuss  
15:19:28 Brendan Beatty  
15:21:28 Chair Llew Jones  
15:22:06 Rep. Mercer  
15:22:45 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center  
15:23:40 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
15:24:24 Brendan Beatty  
15:24:39 Dylan Cole DOR  
15:25:56 Vice Chair Bob Keenan  
15:26:32 Dylan Cole DOR  
15:28:00 Rep. Jerry Schillinger  
15:28:23 Dylan Cole DOR  
15:29:40 Rep. Terry Falk  
15:30:17 Dylan Cole DOR  
15:31:50 Kory Hofland  
15:32:40 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
15:33:12 Jason Rittal, Deputy Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

15:36:40 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
15:37:03 Sponsor  
15:39:33 Rep. Joe Read  
15:39:50 Brendan Beatty  
15:40:40 Vice Chair Mary Caferro  
15:41:24 Sponsor  
15:44:39 Jill Gallagher, Unit Manager, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
15:45:35 Vice Chair Mary Caferro  
15:46:30 Sponsor

**Closing Statement:**

15:48:16 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 212.

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

**Opening Statement:**

15:49:24 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB 222, Provide rebates of property taxes paid on a principal residence.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:51:40 Mark Blasdel, Governor's Office  
15:52:50 Natasha Robinson, Montana Housing Coalition  
15:53:18 Randy Brodehl, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
15:53:53 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Infrastructure Coalition, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)  
15:54:18 George Harris, Montana Coal Council

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:55:24 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

- 15:56:36 Derek Bell, Administrator, Business and Income Tax Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)
- 15:56:54 Robert Finstad, Deputy Administrator, Technology Services, Department of Revenue (DOR)
- 15:57:33 Dylan Cole, Tax Policy and Research Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)
- 15:57:34 Kory Hofland, Administrator, Property Assessment Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

- 15:58:14 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
- 15:58:46 Chair Llew Jones
- 15:58:55 Rep. Jim Hamilton
- 15:59:46 Rep. Tom Welch-R
- 16:00:10 Rep. Bill Mercer
- 16:00:38 Derek Bell, DOR
- 16:01:12 Dylan Cole, DOR
- 16:01:56 Rep. Mike Hopkins left the meeting.
- 16:02:13 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
- 16:03:09 Dylan Cole, DOR
- 16:04:39 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
- 16:05:11 Derek Bell, DOR
- 16:05:40 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
- 16:06:24 Derek Bell, DOR
- 16:07:19 Rep. Connie Keogh
- 16:07:43 Rose Bender, MBPC
- 16:08:20 Rep. Paul Tuss

16:08:51 Rep. Tom Welch-R

16:08:59 Rep. Matt Regier joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

16:09:31 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, closed the hearing on HB 222.

**HEARING ON HB 244 - Revise laws governing the housing Montana fund**

**Opening Statement:**

16:12:36 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 244, Revise laws governing the housing Montana fund.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:15:39 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:16:30 Sheryl Cohen, Executive Director, Montana Board of Housing

**Questions from Committee:**

16:17:03 Rep. Terry Falk

16:18:20 Rep. Dave Fern-D

16:19:17 Sheryl Cohen, Montana Board of Housing

16:19:55 Kathlyn Walker

16:20:26 Sponsor

16:22:32 Rep. Jane Gillette

16:23:07 Rep. Dave Fern-D

16:23:18 Sheryl Cohen

**Closing Statement:**

16:24:34 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 244.

**HEARING ON HB 245 - Revise tax credit for trades education and training**

**Opening Statement:**

16:25:26 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 245, Revise tax credit for trades education and training.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:26:39 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor Gianforte's Education Work Force Policy Advisor

16:27:21 Rhonda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)

16:27:59 Dwayne Williams, Montana Trucking Association, Montana Logging Association

16:28:23 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Contractors Association, Montana Petroleum Association

16:28:41 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF), Montana Stock Grower's Association

16:29:28 Rebecca Meyers, Montana Economic Developers Association, Billings Chamber of Commerce

16:29:46 John Sonju, Montana Mining Association

16:30:03 George Harris, Montana Coal Council

16:30:25 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:31:08 Jackie McBroom, Montana State Conference of Electrical Workers

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:33:12 Derek Bell, Administrator, Business and Income Tax Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

16:33:30 Aaron McNay, Tax Policy and Research, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:34:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:34:15 Rep. Terry Moore left the meeting.

16:34:23 PREVIOUS OFF

16:38:46 Aaron McNay, DOR

**Closing Statement:**

16:39:44 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 245.

**HEARING ON HB 60 - An act providing for an annual fee on electric vehicles registered in the state**

**Opening Statement:**

16:41:05 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 60, An act providing for an annual fee on electric vehicles registered in the state.

**Discussion:**

16:41:23 Rep. David Bedey joined the meeting.

16:41:29 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

16:41:37 Rep. Bill Mercer joined the meeting.

16:41:48 Previous timestamps off or unnecessary

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:43:40 Darrel James, Executive Director, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

16:44:18 Dwayne Williams, Executive Director, Montana Trucking Association

16:44:47 Jason Rittal, Deputy Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:45:16 Rebecca Meyers, Billings Chamber of Commerce

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:45:47 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:47:34 Nicole Pallister, Chief, Commitment Management Bureau, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

16:48:03 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 60.

16:48:54 Vice Chair Keenan assumed the gavel.

**HEARING ON HB 141 - Revise Blackfeet mitigation fund laws**

**Opening Statement:**

16:49:05 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 141, Revise Blackfeet mitigation fund laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:50:57 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

16:51:28 Meghan Bjerke, Regional Manager, Water Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

16:52:30 John Bloomquist, Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

16:54:55 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 141.

16:55:03 Chair Jones assumed the gavel.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 60 - An act providing for an annual fee on electric vehicles registered in the state**

16:56:07 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 60 DO PASS.**

14:53:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 19 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 141 - Revise Blackfeet mitigation fund laws**

16:57:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 141 DO PASS.**

14:53:24 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 244 - Revise laws governing the housing Montana fund**

16:58:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 244 DO PASS.**

14:53:24 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:59:50 Chair Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:01:50

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Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230123APHaad\)](#)