

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Fred Anderson-R, on January 23, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Vice Chair (D)
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. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (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 257 01/20/2023

HB 259 01/20/2023

Executive Action:

HB 203 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 240 DO PASS

HB 181 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HEARING ON HB 257 - Revise education laws related to advanced opportunities program

Opening Statement:

15:04:06 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 257, Revise education laws related to advanced opportunities program.

Proponent Testimony:

15:08:31 Sarah Swanson, Director of Strategic Engagement, Commissioners Office, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

15:15:14 Amanda Curtis, President Elect, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:16:09 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC); Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools (CAMPS)

15:18:34 David Smith, Executive Director, Montana Contractors Association

15:21:03 Brad Griffon, Montana Retail Association, Montana Restaurant Association, Montana Equipment Dealers

15:23:02 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association

15:24:43 Scott Reichner, Montana Auto Dealers Association

15:25:32 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner, Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (CHE)

15:26:19 Brian Obert, Board President, Montana Economic Developers Association

15:27:36 Ayden Myhre, Montana Community Colleges

15:28:15 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:29:13 Charles Denowh, Yes Every Kid

15:29:58 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association

15:31:36 Tom Moore, Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools

15:35:23 Heather Hoyer, Executive Director, Great Falls Public Schools

15:40:48 Shane Etwiler, President and CEO, Great Falls Chamber of Commerce

15:43:32 Lorraine Clarno, President and CEO, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

15:44:55 Bo Bruinsma, Outreach Director, Billings Public Schools

15:52:12 Greg Upham, Superintendent, Billings Public Schools

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:56:18 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Montana Board of Public Education (BPE)

15:56:37 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:57:15 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 257.

HEARING ON HB 259 - Revise teacher license laws

Opening Statement:

15:59:01 Rep. Lee Deming (R), HD 55, opened the hearing on HB 259, Revise teacher license laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:03:16 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

16:09:21 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized For Education (MOFE)

16:12:27 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:14:19 Rep. James Bergstrom
16:16:50 McCall Flynn, BPE
16:17:06 Rep. James Bergstrom
16:17:19 McCall Flynn, BPE
16:17:33 Rep. James Bergstrom
16:18:34 McCall Flynn, BPE
16:25:50 Recessed
16:37:58 Reconvened

Closing Statement:

16:20:21 Rep. Lee Deming (R), HD 55, closed the hearing on HB 259.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 203 - Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities

16:38:39 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 203 DO PASS.**

16:38:57 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 203 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:39:20 Laura Sankey Keip

16:40:39 Rep. Melissa Romano

16:41:31 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

16:41:45 Rep. Melissa Romano

16:38:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:42:49 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 203 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:42:44 Laura Sankey Keip

16:43:10 Rep. Mark Thane

16:43:39 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

16:42:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:44:46 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 203 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:45:08 Rep. Eric Matthews

16:44:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Matthews, Rep. Thane, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 240 - Revise outdated reference for family education savings program laws

16:47:13 **Motion:** Rep. Mark Thane moved that **HB 240 DO PASS.**

16:47:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 181 - Revise laws related to the superintendent of public instruction

16:47:50 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 181 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:47:51 Rep. Linda Reksten

16:49:47 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 181 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:50:00 Rep. Linda Reksten

16:50:46 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

16:51:40 Rep. Mark Thane

16:49:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Deming, voting no.

16:52:41 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 181 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:52:58 Rep. Mark Thane

16:53:53 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

16:54:45 Rep. Eric Matthews

16:52:41 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Matthews, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:57:04

Rose Harmon, Secretary

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