

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### 68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON (H) JOINT APPROPS SUBCOM ON JUDICIAL BRANCH, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND JUSTICE

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Bill Mercer-R, on January 23, 2023 at 8:06 AM, in 317A

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Rep. Bill Mercer, Chair (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Staff Present:** Macy McCauley, 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:

Executive Action:

08:07:14

**Committee Discussion:**

08:07:24 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:11:03 Walker Hopkins LFD

08:13:27 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:15:43 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

08:19:14 Walker Hopkins LFD

08:23:00

**Committee Discussion:**

08:24:41 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:30:38 Sen. Tom McGillvray

08:30:52 Sen. Shelley Vance joined the meeting.

08:31:25 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:42:35 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

08:44:34 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:47:44 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

08:47:50 Natalie Smitha,. Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections

08:49:41

**Committee Discussion:**

08:50:20 Sen. Tom McGillvray

08:50:48 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:51:55 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:53:24 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:53:56 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:53:58 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:56:52 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

08:57:40 Sen. Ryan Lynch

08:58:14 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:58:31 Sen. Ryan Lynch

08:58:53 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

08:59:56 Sen. Tom McGillvray

09:00:38 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

09:00:45 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

09:01:22 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

09:02:25 Sen. Tom McGillvray

09:02:41 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

09:04:22 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:04:32 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

09:05:29 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:06:35 Brian Gootkin, Director of Department of Corrections

09:06:54 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:07:52 Recessed

09:20:53 Reconvened

09:21:26

**Committee Discussion:**

09:21:31 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:22:40 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.

09:22:52 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

09:24:22 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:24:44 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

09:25:48 Sen. Tom McGillvray

09:26:31 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director Department of Corrections

09:28:44 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:30:50 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections

09:31:46 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:34:10 Scott Eychner, Rehab and Programs Chief

09:40:09 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:40:24 Scott Eychner, Rehab and Programs Chief

09:47:10 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:47:46 Scott Eychner, Rehab and Programs Chie

09:48:07 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:50:01 Scott Eychner, Rehab and Programs Chie

09:52:27 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:53:10 Scott Eychner, Rehab and Programs Chie

09:54:25 Rep. Fiona Nave

09:55:27 Scott Eychner, Rehab and Programs Chie

09:57:57 Sen. Tom McGillvray

09:58:10 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections

10:00:19 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:00:56 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections  
10:01:46 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:02:48 Natalie Smitha, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections  
10:02:56 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:03:15 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections  
10:05:12 Cynthia Wolken ,(DOC)  
10:05:50 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
10:06:02 Cynthia Wolken ,(DOC)  
10:07:26 Recessed  
10:21:23 Reconvened  
10:21:33

**Committee Discussion:**

10:21:42 Walker Hopkins LFD  
10:28:29 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
10:29:34 Natalie Smitha, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections  
10:31:18 Rep. Fiona Nave  
10:31:55 Natalie Smitha, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections  
10:32:14 Rep. Fiona Nave  
10:32:26 Natalie Smitha, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections  
10:33:11 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:33:43 Brent Doig, OBPP  
10:33:43 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:34:21 Brent Doig, OBPP  
10:35:40 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:35:43 Walker Hopkins LFD  
10:36:48 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:36:59 Natalie Smitha, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections  
10:38:03 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
10:38:28 Walker Hopkins LFD  
10:39:10 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
10:40:22 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:40:33 Natalie Smitha, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections  
10:42:37 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:43:36 Natalie Smitha, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections  
10:43:57

**Committee Discussion:**

10:45:22 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:45:53 May Simmons, Prison Reform Advocate  
10:49:53 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.  
10:52:55 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:55:12 Erin McGowan, Montana Community Corrections Organization  
10:56:31 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:58:17

**Committee Discussion:**

10:58:20 Walker Hopkins LFD  
10:59:30 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections  
10:59:46 Rep. Bill Mercer

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:01:17

---

Macy McCauley, Secretary

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