

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on January 24, 2023 at 3:16 PM, in 102

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. David Bedey (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
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)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Bob Keenan (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
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 19 01/19/2023
HB 147 01/19/2023
HB 251 01/23/2023
HB 258 01/20/2023
HB 267 01/19/2023
HB 274 01/19/2023

Executive Action:

HB 274 DO PASS
HB 38 DO PASS
HB 91 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HEARING ON HB 19 - Revising laws related to Indian affairs and economic development

Opening Statement:

15:19:24 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 19, Revising laws related to Indian affairs and economic development.

Proponent Testimony:

15:20:43 Lianne Taylor, Business MT Division, Department of Commerce (DOC)

15:21:48 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:22:59 Ta'Jin Perez, Western Native Voice

15:25:10 Danielle Vazquez, Chippewa-Cree Tribe

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:25:35 Misty Kuhl, Governor's Director of Indian Affairs

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:26:19 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, closed the hearing on HB 19.

HEARING ON HB 274 - Revise civil air patrol funding

Opening Statement:

15:27:35 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 274, Revise civil air patrol funding.

Discussion:

15:28:09 Rep. Mike Hopkins joined the meeting.

15:28:15 Rep. Terry Falk joined the meeting.

15:28:48 Rep. Bill Mercer left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

15:29:03 Roy Caldwell, Lieutenant Colonel, Civil Air Patrol

15:30:12 Cadet Chief Clement, Master Sergeant, Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron

15:31:16 Katie Clement, self

Opponent Testimony:

15:33:59 Vice Chair Mary Caferro joined the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:33:51 Tim Conway, Aeronautics Administrator, Montana Department of Transportation

Questions from Committee:

15:34:20 Rep. Fiona Nave

15:35:10 Rep. Joe Read

15:35:41 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

Closing Statement:

15:35:35 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, closed the hearing on HB 274.

HEARING ON HB 267 - Create SAFER account for federal highway grants

Opening Statement:

15:36:47 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 267, Create SAFER account for federal highway grants.

Proponent Testimony:

15:40:09 Malcolm Long, Director, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

15:40:26 Randy Brodehl, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

- 15:41:25 Larry Flynn, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
- [EXHIBIT\(230124APHa1\)](#)
- 15:44:41 Ryan Evans, Assistant Director, Governor's Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)
- 15:45:20 Rep. Mercer and Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.
- 15:46:00 Darrell James, Executive Director, Montana Infrastructure Coalition
- 15:48:16 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association
- 15:49:01 Dwayne Williams, Montana Trucking Association
- 15:49:33 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association
- 15:50:38 Thomas Jodoin, Deputy Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
- 15:51:00 Brian Thompson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

- 15:49:42 Rep. Gillette left the meeting.
- 15:51:54 Rep. Jane Gillette
- 15:52:15 Chair Llew Jones
- 15:52:34 Ryan Evans, OBPP
- 15:52:55 Rep. Jane Gillette
- 15:53:24 Malcolm Long, MDT
- 15:53:43 Vice Chair Keenan joined the meeting.
- 15:53:53 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

15:54:40 Ryan Evans, OBPP
15:56:40 Rep. David Bedey
15:57:15 Malcolm Long, MDT
15:58:14 Rep. Fiona Nave
15:58:48 Malcolm Long, MDT
16:00:32 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:00:48 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.
16:01:00 Larry Flynn, MDT
16:04:42 Vice Chair Caferro
16:05:08 David Smith, MCA
16:05:38 Rep. Sprunger
16:08:16 Larry Flynn, MDT
16:12:52 Rep. Bill Mercer
16:13:26 Ryan Evans, OBPP
16:15:42 Chair Llew Jones
16:16:03 Ryan Evans, OBPP
16:16:40 Vice Chair Caferro
16:17:21 Ryan Evans, OBPP
16:18:10 Rep. Bill Mercer
16:18:44 Julie Johnson
16:19:04 Chair Llew Jones
16:19:19 Malcolm Long, MDT

Closing Statement:

16:22:08 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 267.

HEARING ON HB 258 - Providing a one-time refund for occupying a Montana residence

Opening Statement:

16:23:36 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, opened the hearing on HB 258, Providing a one-time refund for occupying a Montana residence.

Proponent Testimony:

16:26:15 Jordan Hess, Mayor, City of Missoula

16:27:26 Tirza Asbell, Montana Women Vote

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:29:20 Derek Bell, Administrator, Business and Income Tax Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

16:29:35 Robert Finstad, Deputy Director, Technology Services, Department of Revenue (DOR)

16:29:54 Dylan Cole, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

15:51:05 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:30:26 Rep. Fitzpatrick

16:31:24 Rep. Karlen, HD 96

16:31:38 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:32:32 Dylan Cole, DOR

16:33:25 Rep. Gillette joined the meeting.

16:33:58 Derek Bell, DOR

16:38:38 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:40:00 Derek Bell, DOR

16:42:40 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:43:00 Rep. Karlen, HD 96
16:44:02 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
16:44:26 Rep. Karlen, HD 96
16:46:40 Vice Chair Caferro
16:47:18 Rep. Karlen, HD 96
16:47:48 Vice Chair Keenan joined the meeting.
16:51:44 Rep. Karlen, HD 96
16:52:34 Chair Llew Jones
16:52:39 Rep. Moore left the meeting.
16:53:32 Rep. Karlen, HD 96

Closing Statement:

16:58:25 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, closed the hearing on HB 258.

HEARING ON HB 147 - Enhance Medicaid rates for certain children's mental health services

Opening Statement:

17:00:29 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 147, Enhance Medicaid rates for certain children's mental health services.

Discussion:

17:02:16 Rep. Falk left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

17:04:20 Pat Noonan, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana (BHAM)
17:04:53 Colleen Rahn, NAMI Montana
17:06:53 Dennis Sulser, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana, Youth Dynamics
17:08:21 Rep. Hopkins and Rep. Schillinger left the meeting.
17:10:01 Mary Windecker, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana (BHAM)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:12:45 Megan Peel, Chief, Children's Mental Health Bureau, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

17:13:10 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:13:38 Megan Peel, DPHHS
17:14:31 Rep. David Bedey
17:15:40 Vice Chair Caferro
17:17:36 Rep. Jane Gillette-R
17:20:14 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:21:50 Megan Peel, DPHHS
17:26:42 Vice Chair Keenan
17:28:34 Megan Peel, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

17:29:10 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, closed the hearing on HB 147.

HEARING ON HB 251 - Provide budget stability through investment and liability reduction

Opening Statement:

17:30:45 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 251, Provide budget stability through investment and liability reduction.

Discussion:

17:32:08 Rep. Falk joined the meeting.
17:33:44 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy left the meeting.

[EXHIBIT\(230124APHa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230124APHa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

17:36:43 Ryan Evans, Assistant Director, Governor's Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

[EXHIBIT\(230124APHa2\)](#)

17:40:40 Will Selph, Attorney General's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230124APHa5\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230124APHa6\)](#)

17:44:04 Mark Taylor, Montana Association of Troopers

17:45:00 Brian Thompson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:45:57 Mike Feldman, Highway Patrol Division, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

17:46:22 Anna Miller, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee:

17:46:36 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:47:43 Ryan Evans, OBPP

17:51:22 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.

17:54:15 Rep. David Bedey

17:54:40 Ryan Evans, OBPP

17:54:51 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:55:43 Ryan Evans, OBPP

18:01:25 Rep. Jane Gillette

18:02:58 Ryan Evans, OBPP
18:05:43 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
18:06:33 Will Selph, DOJ

[EXHIBIT\(230124APHa7\)](#)

Closing Statement:

18:09:17 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 251.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 274 - Revise civil air patrol funding

18:28:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 274 DO PASS.**

16:22:11 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 38 - Generally revise theft laws to enumerate theft of a light vehicle

18:29:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 38 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:18:39 Recessed

18:27:50 Reconvened

18:32:30 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:35:15 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

18:36:27 Rep. Fiona Nave

18:37:22 Rep. Fitzpatrick

16:22:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.
Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 91 - Revise laws related to public library state aid

18:39:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 91 DO PASS.**

16:22:11 **Vote:** Motion failed unanimously by voice vote.

18:39:47 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **HB 91 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:42:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton

18:42:32 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:43:03 Rep. David Bedey

18:44:29 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:44:42 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

18:45:00 Julie Johnson

18:45:14 Rep. David Bedey

18:45:57 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:48:36 Jennie Stapp, Montana Librarian

18:49:32 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy

18:50:55 Rep. Fiona Nave

18:51:45 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:52:11 Rep. Fitzpatrick

18:53:26 Rep. David Bedey

18:58:11 Vice Chair Caferro

18:58:39 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy

18:59:29 Chair Llew Jones

16:22:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 9 by voice vote with Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no. Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

19:02:20 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 91 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

16:22:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Regier, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no. Rep. Regier, Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 19:05:12

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230124APHaad\)](#)