

**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 25, 2023 at 8:03 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)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (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:

08:05:33

**Committee Discussion:**

08:05:39 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:21:14 Rep. Fiona Nave joined the meeting.

08:06:59

**Committee Discussion:**

08:07:03 Walker Hopkins LFD

08:07:41 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

08:10:06 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:10:07 Walker Hopkins LFD

08:11:53 Natalie Smitham, (DOC)

08:14:21 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

08:14:33 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:14:34 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

08:14:40 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:15:46 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

08:16:37 Sen. Tom McGillvray

08:16:58 Walker Hopkins LFD

08:23:27 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:23:53 Jim Anderson, (DOC)

08:26:22

**Committee Discussion:**

08:26:29 Jim Anderson, (DOC)  
08:34:44 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections  
08:38:51 Walker Hopkins LFD  
08:43:45 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
08:44:46 Rep. Bill Mercer  
08:45:24 Brent Doig, OBPP  
08:46:03 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
08:47:37 Rep. Bill Mercer  
08:48:23 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
08:51:11 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
08:52:16 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
08:53:00 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections  
08:53:33 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
08:53:49 Brian Gootkin Director, Department of Corrections  
08:54:04 Rep. Bill Mercer  
08:54:39 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
08:55:42 Rep. Bill Mercer  
08:56:53 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
08:57:37 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:00:50 Rep. Fiona Nave  
09:01:57 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:02:59 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
09:03:15 Jim Anderson, (DOC)

09:03:31 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:05:23 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.  
09:07:11 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
09:07:31 Brent Doig, OBPP  
09:08:04 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
09:08:17 Brent Doig, OBPP  
09:08:23 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:08:40 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:09:26 Rep. Michele Binkley  
09:10:04 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:10:38 Recessed  
09:25:02

**Committee Discussion:**

09:25:44 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:26:35 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
09:26:50 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:27:45 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
09:27:58 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
09:28:32 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:28:32 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
09:29:05 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:29:18 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
09:29:25 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:29:45 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:29:59 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:31:28 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:32:47 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
09:33:11 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:35:15 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:35:31 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:35:42 Walker Hopkins LFD  
09:36:18 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:25:31 Reconvened  
09:36:48

**Committee Discussion:**

09:36:52 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:37:48 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
09:38:19 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:39:45 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:39:59 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:40:13 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:41:06 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:42:23 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:44:36 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
09:44:50 Jim Anderson, (DOC)  
09:46:32 Rep. Fiona Nave  
09:46:34 Jim Anderson, (DOC)  
09:46:48 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

09:48:05 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
09:49:17 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
09:49:24 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:49:44 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
09:49:48 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:50:52 Rep. Fiona Nave  
09:51:12 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:52:16

**Committee Discussion:**

09:52:22 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:53:29

**Committee Discussion:**

09:53:40 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:54:18

**Committee Discussion:**

09:54:26 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:54:42 Rep. Fiona Nave joined the meeting.  
09:55:18 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:55:51 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
09:56:08 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:56:27 Scott Eychner Rehab and Programs Chief  
09:57:05 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:58:06 Scott Eychner Rehab and Programs Chief  
09:58:19 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:58:48 Scott Eychner Rehab and Programs Chief  
09:59:10 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:59:39 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
10:00:26 Rep. Fiona Nave  
10:00:58 Scott Eychner Rehab and Programs Chief  
10:01:26 Rep. Fiona Nave  
10:01:49 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
10:02:26 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:02:39

**Committee Discussion:**

10:02:47 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
10:03:12 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
10:04:07 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
10:04:09 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
10:04:19 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
10:04:24 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
10:05:06 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
10:05:45 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
10:06:02 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
10:06:20 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:06:28 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)  
10:07:44 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:09:10 Brent Doig, OBPP  
10:09:16 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:09:40 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

10:11:06

**Committee Discussion:**

10:12:20 Larry Neilson, (MFPE)

10:15:44 Sen. Ryan Lynch

10:16:15 Andrea Evans,

10:18:04 Sen. Tom McGillvray

10:18:29 Andrea Evans

10:19:37 Sen. Ryan Lynch

10:20:10 Mark Baker, Core Civic

10:21:19 Recessed

10:31:08 Reconvened

10:31:42

**Committee Discussion:**

10:31:48 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:32:18 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

10:32:34 Jim Anderson, (DOC)

10:33:36 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:35:35 Jim Anderson, (DOC)

10:36:32 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:42:07 May Simmons, Prison Reform Advocate

10:46:06 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

10:46:12 Walker Hopkins LFD

10:47:18 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:49:36

**Committee Discussion:**

10:49:48 Walker Hopkins LFD

10:50:01 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:50:24 Walker Hopkins LFD

10:52:31 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

10:52:32 Walker Hopkins LFD

10:59:40 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:00:05 Walker Hopkins LFD

11:07:11 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:07:28 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:08:07 Walker Hopkins LFD

11:09:12 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:09:13 Walker Hopkins LFD

11:09:20 Sen. Tom McGillvray

11:09:34 Walker Hopkins LFD

11:09:44 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

11:10:48 Sen. Tom McGillvray

11:12:15 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

11:12:35 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:12:40 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:12:49 Natalie Smitham ,(DOC)

11:13:04 Sen. Shelley Vance

11:14:05 Walker Hopkins LFD

11:15:26 Sen. Shelley Vance

11:16:24 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:16:28 Walker Hopkins LFD

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:17:34

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Macy McCauley, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230125JCHaad\)](#)