

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones-R, on January 26, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 102

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
Rep. Bob Keenan, Vice 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. 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. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Terry Falk (R)  
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
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 20 01/25/2023

HB 119 01/20/2023

HB 163 01/25/2023

HB 292 01/20/2023

Executive Action:

HB 163 DO PASS

HB 20 TO TABLE

**HEARING ON HB 20 - Appropriation for the MSU Local Government Center**

**Opening Statement:**

15:59:15 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 20, Appropriation for the MSU Local Government Center.

**Discussion:**

16:00:44 Vice Chair Keenan left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:01:16 Jason Rittal, Deputy Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:03:18 Thomas Jodoin, General Council, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:04:55 Rep. Jane Gillette

16:05:32 Rep. Dave Fern-D

16:05:52 Rep. David Bedey

16:06:48 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:08:10 Rep. Dave Fern-D

16:08:21 Rep. Terry Moore

16:08:40 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

16:09:31 Rep. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.

16:10:34 Rep. Dave Fern-D

**Closing Statement:**

16:12:53 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 20.

**HEARING ON HB 119 - Provide funding for public safety pension systems**

**Opening Statement:**

16:14:41 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 119, Provide funding for public safety pension systems.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:17:00 Ryan Evans, Assistant Director, Governor's Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

16:18:17 Brian Gootkin, Director, Department of Corrections (DOC)

16:19:41 Dore Schwinden, Executive Director, Montana Public Employees Retirement Administration (MPERA)

16:19:50 Jason Rittal, Deputy Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:20:21 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

16:21:17 Jessie Luther, Montana Association of Montana Troopers, Montana Police Protective Association

16:23:45 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA), Association of Montana Retired Public Employees (AMRPE)

16:24:36 Frank Garner, self

16:25:33 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:27:22 Rep. Nave  
16:27:50 Ryan Evans, OBPP  
16:28:07 Dore Schwinden, MPERA  
16:28:36 Rep. Nave  
16:29:10 Dore Schwinden, MPERA  
16:32:15 Rep. Fitzpatrick  
16:32:31 Dore Schwinden, MPERA  
16:33:09 Rep. Jerry Schillinger  
16:33:40 Dore Schwinden, MPERA  
16:35:48 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
16:37:05 William Hollahan, Deputy Director, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA)  
16:39:33 Rep. Windy Boy  
16:40:21 William Hollahan, MPERA  
16:40:48 Chair Llew Jones  
16:41:10 William Hollahan, MPERA  
16:43:05 Rep. Terry Moore

**Closing Statement:**

16:44:40 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 119.

**HEARING ON HB 163 - Revise and extend Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force**

**Opening Statement:**

16:46:15 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 163, Revise and extend Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force.

**Discussion:**

16:49:38 Rep. Read joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:50:08 Dana Toole, Chief, Special Services Bureau, Criminal Investigation Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

16:51:08 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

16:52:38 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

16:54:30 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, closed the hearing on HB 163.

**HEARING ON HB 292 - Make board of public accountants enterprise fund permanent**

**Opening Statement:**

16:55:50 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 292, Make board of public accountants enterprise fund permanent.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:57:07 Dan Vuckovich, Chair, Board of Accountancy

17:01:05 Alan Lloyd, Executive Director, Montana Society of CPAs

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:02:33 Eric Strauss, Administrator, Employment Standards Division, Department of Labor and industry (DLI)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:03:02 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
17:03:20 Eric Strauss, DLI  
17:03:30 Chair Llew Jones  
17:04:16 Rep. Dooling, HD 70  
17:05:06 Dan Vuckovich, Board of Accountancy  
17:06:00 Rep. Jane Gillette  
17:06:40 Rep. Dooling, HD 70  
17:06:48 Dan Vuckovich, Board of Accountancy  
17:07:53 Chair Llew Jones  
17:10:00 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
17:10:23 Chair Llew Jones  
17:10:40 Quinn Holzer

**Closing Statement:**

17:12:35 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, closed the hearing on HB 292.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 163 - Revise and extend Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force**

17:13:40 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 163 DO PASS.**  
14:41:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 20 - Appropriation for the MSU Local Government Center**

17:14:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 20 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:15:11 Rep. Mercer  
17:16:00 Rep. Fiona Nave

- 17:16:24 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 17:16:54 Rep. Jim Hamilton
- 17:17:50 Rep. Terry Moore
- 17:18:27 Rep. Hopkins joined the meeting.
- 17:18:49 Rep. David Bedey
- 14:41:11 **Vote:** Motion failed 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting yes.
- 17:22:23 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. David Bedey moved that **HB 20 TO TABLE.**
- 14:41:12 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 16 - 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.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:29:10

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Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230126APHaad\)](#)