

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Julie Dooling-R, on January 31, 2023 at 9:00 AM, in 455

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Julie Dooling, Chair (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Heather Kellum, Secretary
Rebecca Power, 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 208 01/24/2023

HB 281 01/24/2023

HB 306 01/27/2023

HB 264 01/27/2023

Executive Action:

09:01:25

Committee Discussion:

09:01:30 Rep. Julie Dooling

10:38:32

Committee Discussion:

10:38:37 Rep. Julie Dooling

10:39:55 Rep. Michael Yakawich

10:40:03 Rep. Julie Dooling

10:40:13 Rep. Michael Yakawich

10:40:34 Rep. Bob Phalen

HEARING ON HB 208 - Revise laws relating to state employee travel

Opening Statement:

09:01:54 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 208, Revise laws relating to state employee travel.

Discussion:

09:02:00 Rep. Ron Marshall-R

[EXHIBIT\(230131STHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

09:10:22 Debbie Westlake, Private Citizen, General Public

[EXHIBIT\(230131STHa2\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:14:57 Don Harris, Chief Legal Council, Department of Administration, DOA

Questions from Committee:

09:16:37	Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
09:17:21	Don Harris, DOA
09:17:32	Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
09:18:09	Don Harris, DOA
09:18:55	Rep. Ed Stafman
09:19:20	Don Harris, DOA
09:19:49	Rep. Marta Bertoglio
09:20:22	Rep. Ron Marshall-R
09:21:16	Rep. Marta Bertoglio
09:21:24	Don Harris, DOA
09:22:13	Rep. Gregory Frazer
09:23:03	Don Harris, DOA
09:23:18	Rep. Linda Reksten
09:23:55	Don Harris, DOA
09:24:32	Rep. Linda Reksten
09:24:52	Don Harris, DOA
09:25:17	Rep. Julie Dooling
09:25:32	Rep. Frank Smith
09:25:56	Don Harris, DOA
09:26:07	Rep. Julie Dooling
09:26:23	Rep. Denise Baum
09:26:50	Rep. Ron Marshall-R
09:27:02	Rep. Julie Dooling
09:27:21	Don Harris, DOA

09:28:25 Rep. Walsh has arrived
09:29:03 Rep. Julie Dooling
09:29:12 Don Harris, DOA
09:30:04 Rep. Linda Reksten
09:30:47 Don Harris, DOA
09:30:51 Rep. Green has arrived
09:31:39 Rep. Linda Reksten
09:31:57 Don Harris, DOA
09:32:11 Rep. Denise Baum
09:33:02 Don Harris, DOA
09:33:07 Rep. Denise Baum
09:33:26 Don Harris, DOA
09:34:04 Rep. Denise Baum
09:34:30 Don Harris, DOA
09:34:37 Rep. Denise Baum
09:35:12 Don Harris, DOA
09:35:40 Rep. Julie Dooling
09:35:52 Rep. Ron Marshall-R

Closing Statement:

09:36:13 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, closed the hearing on HB 208.

Discussion:

09:36:18 Rep. Ron Marshall-R

HEARING ON HB 281 - Revise the burial preservation board member terms

Opening Statement:

09:39:14 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 281, Revise the burial preservation board member terms.

Discussion:

09:39:16 Rep. Tony Brockman-R

Proponent Testimony:

09:40:47 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

09:42:08 Don Harris, Chief of Legal Council, Department of Administration, DOA

09:43:14 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Nation

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:44:18 Rep. Michael Yakawich

09:44:42 Don Harris, DOA

09:46:24 Rep. Michael Yakawich

09:46:33 Don Harris, DOA

09:47:10 Rep. Gary Parry

09:47:34 Don Harris, DOA

09:48:05 Rep. Gary Parry

09:48:10 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Nation

09:48:42 Rep. Gary Parry

09:49:23 Rep. Frank Smith

09:49:42 Don Harris, DOA

Closing Statement:

09:50:01 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 281.

Discussion:

09:50:04 Rep. Tony Brockman-R

HEARING ON HB 264 - Establish decennial veterans' long term care needs study

Opening Statement:

09:50:41 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 264, Establish decennial veterans' long term care needs study.

Discussion:

09:50:20 Rep. Brockman has left

09:50:44 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R

Proponent Testimony:

09:53:41 Roger Hagan, Montana American Legion

[EXHIBIT\(230131STHa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230131STHa4\)](#)

09:56:40 Bill White, Legion's Representative to the Governor

09:57:52 Mike Batista, Director of Government Affairs, American Rescue Plan Program (ARP Montana), Ability Montana

09:59:53 Jeannie Hansen, Private Citizen

10:01:35 Lowell Long, Commander, Department of Montana for the American Legion

10:02:27 Margaret MacDonald, Big Sky 55+

10:03:22 Joe Fletcher, Department of the Montana Veterans of Foreign War of the USA

10:04:33 Richard Liebert, Former Veteran and Private Citizen

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 10:04:04 Kelly Ackerman, Program Manager, Montana Department of Veterans Affairs, DMA
- 10:08:25 Barbara Smith, Administrator, Senior and Long Term Care Division, Department of Public Health and Human Services, DPHHS

Questions from Committee:

- 10:09:02 Rep. Paul Green
- 10:09:48 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R
- 10:10:15 Rep. Paul Green
- 10:10:34 Rep. Gary Parry
- 10:11:18 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R
- 10:11:30 Rep. Linda Reksten
- 10:11:38 Rep. Denise Baum
- 10:12:11 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R
- 10:12:12 Barbara Smith, DPHHS
- 10:13:01 Rep. Denise Baum
- 10:13:22 Barbara Smith, DPHHS
- 10:13:33 Rep. Denise Baum
- 10:14:06 Barbara Smith, DPHHS
- 10:14:21 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
- 10:14:58 Barbara Smith, DPHHS
- 10:15:30 Rep. Julie Dooling
- 10:16:19 Barbara Smith, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

- 10:16:34 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 264.

Discussion:

10:16:37 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R

HEARING ON HB 306 - Require candidates for office be registered to vote

Opening Statement:

10:18:25 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 306, Require candidates for office be registered to vote.

Discussion:

10:18:30 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:20:17 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Nation

10:22:59 Linda Schmitt, Ravalli County

10:25:58 Jade Bahr, Montana Budget and Policy Center

10:27:45 Ta'jin Perez, Deputy Director, Western Native Voice

10:29:46 Courtney Smith, Word Montana

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:31:36 Chris Gallus, Commissioner of Political Practices

Questions from Committee:

10:33:53 Rep. Bob Phalen

10:34:07 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R

10:34:13 Rep. Bob Phalen

10:34:30 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R

10:34:40 Rep. Paul Green

10:35:20 Courtney Smith, Word MT

10:35:45 Rep. Paul Green
10:35:53 Courtney Smith, Word MT
10:36:07 Rep. Paul Green
10:36:22 Courtney Smith, Word MT
10:36:40 Rep. Julie Dooling
10:37:16 Courtney Smith, Word MT

Closing Statement:

10:37:36 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 306.

Discussion:

10:37:39 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R
09:01:25
10:38:32

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:41:01

Heather Kellum, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230131STHaad\)](#)