

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Llew Jones-R, on February 06, 2023 at 3:08 PM, in Room 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. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
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 243 02/02/2023
HB 355 01/31/2023
HB 375 02/01/2023
HB 301 02/03/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 355 - Appropriate funds for local government infrastructure projects

Opening Statement:

15:11:12 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 355, Appropriate funds for local government infrastructure projects.

[EXHIBIT\(230206APHa1\)](#)

15:11:30 Rep. Falk and Rep. Nave joined the meeting

15:11:59 Rep. Gillette left the meeting.

15:12:09 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

15:21:00 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

15:21:43 Jason Strouf, Commissioner, Custer County, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

15:23:04 Darryl James, Executive Director, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

15:24:48 David Smith, Executive Director, Montana Contractors Association (MCA), Billings Chamber of Commerce, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:26:16 Brett Doney, President, Great Falls Development Authority

15:26:46 Thomas Jodoin, Deputy Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

15:27:52 Nick Ross, Director, Transportation and Engineering, City of Bozeman

15:29:40 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development

15:30:43 Amy Grmoljez, Montana Dakota Utilites, Knife River, Rocky Mountain Contractors, City of Billings, CRH Cement, Helena Sand and Gravel

15:31:11 Cynthia Johnson, President, Sweetgrass Development

15:32:02 Maureen Connor, Philipsburg/self

[EXHIBIT\(230206APHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230206APHa3\)](#)

15:35:40 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFLCIO

15:36:30 Rep. Mercer left the meeting.

15:37:36 Tom Rolf, Commissioner, Lewis and Clark County

15:38:17 Jennifer Hensley, Missoula County, City of Missoula

15:38:44 Ryan Leland, Public Works Director, City of Helena

15:40:04 Adam Haight, Laborers Local 1686

15:40:25 Jacky McBroom, Conference of Electrical Workers

15:40:48 Jordan Green, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Deerlodge

15:41:22 George Real Bird III, Commissioner, Bighorn County

15:42:38 JP Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer, Butte Silver Bow

15:43:07 Bill Lloyd, President, Great West Engineering

15:43:52 Dan Karlin, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

15:45:18 Al Ekblad, Operating Engineers Local 400

15:46:06 Dwayne Wock, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #233

15:46:27 Shelby Demars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

15:47:32 Blaine Bradshaw, Attorney, Granite County

15:48:00 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

15:48:20 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local #2, State Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters

15:49:11 Logan McInnis, Deputy Public Works Director, City of Missoula

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:50:19 Renee Lemon, Administrator, MT Division, Department of Commerce

Questions from Committee:

15:51:18 Rep. David Bedey

15:55:13 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
15:55:55 Rep. David Bedey
15:56:36 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
15:57:31 Rep. David Bedey
15:57:42 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
15:57:56 Rep. Terry Moore
15:59:01 Renee Lemon, Department of Commerce
15:59:14 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.
16:01:15 Rep. Paul Tuss
16:01:49 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
16:02:16 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
16:02:36 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
16:03:21 Rep. Terry Falk
16:04:51 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
16:05:45 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:08:56 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
16:09:41 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard
16:10:21 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R
16:11:30 Rep. Bill Mercer
16:12:39 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R

Closing Statement:

16:14:40 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, closed the hearing on HB 355.

HEARING ON HB 243 - Revise hunter education laws

Opening Statement:

16:17:00 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HB 243, Revise hunter education laws.

[EXHIBIT\(230206APHa4\)](#)

16:23:15 Rep. Hopkins joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

16:24:56 Mack Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association

16:26:14 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Citizen Elk Management Coalition

16:27:12 Thomas Baumeister, Montana Back Country Hunters and Anglers

16:28:18 Stephen LePage, self

16:29:07 Marlon Clapham, Chairman, Montana Bow Hunters Association

16:31:19 Ken Schultz, President, Montana Bow Hunters Association

16:31:52 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:32:56 Lena Havron, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:33:30 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:35:47 Lena Havron, FWP

16:36:35 Rep. Terry Falk

16:37:07 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D

16:40:53 Lena Havron, FWP

16:41:03 Rep. Terry Falk
16:42:29 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D
16:45:47 Rep. Terry Falk
16:47:29 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D
16:47:41 Rep. Llew Jones
16:48:58 Lena Havron, FWP

Closing Statement:

16:50:30 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, closed the hearing on HB 243.

HEARING ON HB 301 - Revise laws relating to dangerous drugs

Opening Statement:

16:51:46 Rep. Denise Baum (D), HD 47, opened the hearing on HB 301, Revise laws relating to dangerous drugs.

Proponent Testimony:

16:54:00 Steven Crawford, Narcotics Bureau, Criminal Investigation Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)
16:54:23 Shelby Demars, Montana Police Protective Association
16:55:30 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA), Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA)

Opponent Testimony:

16:56:31 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU & Montana Women Vote
16:57:48 Rose Bender, Montana Budget & Policy Center

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:58:40 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

16:59:11 Rep. Terry Moore

16:59:49 Rep. Denise Baum-D
17:00:21 Rep. Terry Moore
17:00:43 Rep. Denise Baum-D
17:01:14 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:02:36 Natalie Smitham, DOC
17:02:58 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:03:38 Natalie Smitham, DOC
17:03:49 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:05:01 Natalie Smitham, DOC
17:05:15 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:06:10 Rep. Denise Baum-D
17:06:49 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:07:19 Rep. Denise Baum-D
17:08:35 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:10:04 Steven Crawford, DOJ
17:10:13 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:10:19 Steven Crawford, DOJ
17:11:48 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:12:15 Steven Crawford, DOJ

Closing Statement:

17:12:27 Rep. Denise Baum (D), HD 47, closed the hearing on HB 301.

HEARING ON HB 375 - Appropriate funds to pave road providing access to Lost Creek State Park

Opening Statement:

17:14:05 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 375, Appropriate funds to pave road providing access to Lost Creek State Park.

[EXHIBIT\(230206APHa5\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

17:21:12 Bill Everett, CEO, Anaconda Deerlodge County

[EXHIBIT\(230206APHa6\)](#)

17:25:32 Carl Hamming, Anaconda Deerlodge County

17:26:36 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Council,
International Brotherhood of Teamsters #2

Opponent Testimony:

17:27:55 Angie Grove, Montana State Parks Foundation

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:30:21 Lena Havron, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

17:30:42 Rep. David Bedey

17:32:25 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R

17:32:38 Rep. Fiona Nave

17:34:42 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R

17:36:34 Rep. Paul Tuss

17:37:21 Bill Everett, Anaconda Deerlodge County

17:37:29 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:38:40 Lena Havron, FWP

17:39:41 Rep. Connie Keogh

17:40:54 Lena Havron, FWP

17:41:14 Rep. Mike Hopkins

17:41:40 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R

17:42:13 Rep. David Bedey

17:43:16 Lena Havron, FWP

17:43:33 Rep. David Bedey

17:43:47 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R

17:44:23 Rep. Bob Keenan

17:44:32 Lena Havron, FWP

17:45:02 Rep. Bob Keenan

17:45:38 Bill Everett, Anaconda Deerlodge County

17:45:55 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:46:25 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.

17:46:30 Ange Grove, Montana State Parks Foundation

17:46:41 Lena Havron, FWP

17:47:00 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:47:41 Mr. Hamming, Anaconda and Deerlodge County

17:48:00 Rep. Mary Caferro

17:48:36 Lena Havron, FWP

17:49:20 Rep. David Bedey

17:49:57 Bill Everett, Anaconda Deerlodge County

17:50:46 Rep. Llew Jones

17:51:43 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R

Closing Statement:

17:53:05 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, closed the hearing on HB 375.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:01:56

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230206APHaad\)](#)