

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Larry Brewster-R, on February 7, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 472

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Larry Brewster, Chair (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Sherry Essman (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Excused: Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

Staff Present: LuCinda Blair, Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, 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 and Date Posted:
HB 291 02/04/2023
HB 323 02/04/2023
HB 328 02/04/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 323 – Revise laws related to child protective teams

Opening Statement:

15:01:45 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 323, Revise laws related to child protective teams.

Proponent Testimony:

15:03:20 Matt Furlong, Montana Child Protection Alliance (MCPA)
15:05:54 Dave Kesler, Self
15:10:04 Bart Crabtree, Montana Citizens Council on Judicial Accountability (MCCJA)
15:10:50 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance (MCPA)
15:13:20 Jacob Handy, Self
15:15:32 Isla Handy, Self
15:16:15 Blaine Bradshaw, Self
15:20:28 Chuck Hinkle, Granite County Commission

Opponent Testimony:

15:21:05 Nicki Grossberg, Department of Health and Human Services Child and Family Services (DPHHS)
15:24:10 Amanda O'Shea Tiernan, Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA) and Yellowstone County Attorney's Office
15:29:32 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
15:30:48 Beth Brenneman, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:33:45 Audrey Walleser, Self

Questions from Committee:

15:34:18 Rep. Jennifer Lynch
15:36:26 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour
15:36:45 Amanda O'Shea Tiernan, MCAA
15:39:47 Rep. Laurie Bishop
15:40:30 Nicki Grossberg, DPHHS
15:41:00 Rep. Linda Reksten

15:42:53 Rep. Steve Gist
15:43:25 Audrey Walleser
15:46:20 Rep. Steven Galloway
15:50:58 Blaine Bradshaw
15:51:00 Rep. Caleb Hinkle

Closing Statement:

15:56:00 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, closed the hearing on HB 323.

15:57:30 Vice Chair Marta Bertoglio assumes the chair.

HEARING ON HB 291 – Revise local government investment laws

Opening Statement:

15:58:09 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 291, Revise local government investment laws.

Proponent Testimony:

15:59:20 Allen Hulse, Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA)
16:05:12 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MTLCT)
16:06:25 Steve Wade, Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:08:00 Rep. Mark Thane
16:08:10 Allen Hulse, MMIA
16:09:58 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:11:30 Rep. Steve Gist

16:12:25 Rep. Steven Galloway

Closing Statement:

16:15:35 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, closed the hearing on HB 291.

16:16:16 Chair Larry Brewster resumes the chair.

HEARING ON HB 328 – Require certain govt boards to record public meetings in audio and video format

Opening Statement:

16:16:30 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 328, Require certain govt boards to record public meetings in audio and video format.

Proponent Testimony:

16:29:00 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
16:30:36 Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM) and Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools
16:32:45 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasters Association (MBA)
16:33:20 Rep. Tony Brockman, HD 9
16:45:30 Elaina Gagliano, Self

Opponent Testimony:

16:49:35 Jason Strouf, Custer County Commission
16:50:40 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MTLCT)
16:55:55 Candace Payne, Lewis and Clark County Commission
17:01:35 Joette Woods, Liberty County Commission
17:02:45 Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commission
17:05:40 Tyrel Hamilton, Stillwater County Commission
17:09:10 Daniel Farr, on behalf of Northeast Montana schools
17:12:18 Dan Ellison, Jefferson County
17:13:26 Larry Hendrickson, Liberty County Commission
17:13:40 Roy Rost, Fallon County Commission

17:14:46 Shelby Demars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties
17:15:23 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
17:17:09 George Real Bird III, Bighorn County Commission
17:18:45 Jennifer Saunders, Fergus County Commission
17:20:00 Roman Zylawy, President, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
17:22:08 Robert Pancratz, Musselshell County Commission
17:23:40 Josh Lewis, Fallon County IT
17:24:59 Todd Devlin, Prairie County Commission

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:28:50 Misty Ann Giles, Department of Administration (DOA)

Questions from Committee:

16:34:50 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
16:35:10 Rep. Tony Brockman
16:37:50 Rep. Mark Thane
16:38:55 Rep. Steve Gist
16:42:30 Rep. Steve Gunderson
17:29:15 Rep. Kelly Kortum
17:29:55 Rep. Brad Barker
17:31:00 Vice Chair Marta Bertoglio

Closing Statement:

17:33:50 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, closed the hearing on HB 328.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:37:16

LuCinda Blair, Secretary

Additional Documents: [LINK TO FILE](#)