

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Larry Brewster-R, on February 9, 2023 at 3:09 PM, in 472

ROLL CALL

Members Present: 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. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Larry Brewster, Chair (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (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 324 02/06/2023
HB 360 02/06/2023
HB 369 02/06/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 324 – Provide for a local government expenditure limitation

Opening Statement:

15:11:16 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 324, Provide for a local government expenditure limitation.

Proponent Testimony:

15:14:20 Jesse Ramos, Americans for Prosperity Montana (AFP)
15:25:20 Kendall Cotton, Frontier Institute
15:28:00 Ann Hallowell, Self
15:29:00 Darin Gaub, Restore Liberty and Montana Freedom Caucus
15:30:13 Terry Nelson, Self
15:31:06 Alexis Chavarria, Self

Opponent Testimony:

15:32:10 Jason Strouf, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
15:32:55 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
15:44:50 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition
15:54:15 Carter Marsh, Montana Firefighters Association
15:56:53 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MTLCT)
16:00:20 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties and Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)
16:04:50 Eric Hinebauch, Great Falls City Commission
16:05:40 Adrienne Cotton, AARP Montana
16:06:23 Eric Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees

Chair Larry Brewster resumes the chair.

16:07:47 Brad Davis, Missoula Fire Department
16:10:05 Phillip Keating, Missoula Fire Department
16:10:52 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula
16:12:35 Rich Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:14:20 Colleen Black, CPA

Questions from Committee:

16:15:55 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour
16:16:35 Eric Bryson, MACo
16:17:30 Rep. Steve Gunderson
16:17:45 Jesse Ramos, AFP
16:21:27 Rep. Mark Thane
16:25:15 Rep. Katie Zolnikov
16:29:10 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
16:30:20 Rep. Linda Reksten
16:32:15 Rep. Steven Galloway
16:33:15 Rep. Caleb Hinkle
16:35:23 Chair Larry Brewster

Closing Statement:

16:36:15 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, closed the hearing on HB 324.

HEARING ON HB 360 – Revise election of county commissioners

Opening Statement:

16:39: Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 360, Revise election of county commissioners.

Proponent Testimony:

16:42:15 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:43:52 Rep. Mark Thane
16:44:04 Rep. Steve Galloway
16:44:40 Eric Bryson, MACo
16:45:13 Rep. Sherry Essmann
16:45:45 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:49:30 Rep. Steve Gunderson
16:51:00 Chair Larry Brewster

Closing Statement:

16:51:20 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 360.

HEARING ON HB 369 – Require referendum to adopt growth policy

Opening Statement:

16:53:55 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB 369, Require referendum to adopt growth policy

Proponent Testimony:

16:56:10 Ann Hallowell, Self
16:58:25 Jeff Wagner, Self
17:03:35 Gwen O’Hair, Self

Opponent Testimony:

17:06:30 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MTLCT)
17:08:10 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)
17:11:28 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula
17:14:26 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish
17:15:25 Robin Turner, City of Whitefish
17:17:35 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings
17:18:18 Sam Forstag, City of Missoula and City of Bozeman
17:18:45 Andrew Hagemeyer, Montana Association of Planners
17:20:59 Laval Means, City of Missoula

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:23:35 Rep. Steve Gist

17:24:20 Kelly Lynch, MTLCT

Closing Statement:

17:24:45 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HB 369.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:26:48

LuCinda Blair, Secretary

Additional Documents: EXHIBIT(230209LOH)