

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Llew Jones-R, on February 13, 2023 at 3:27 PM, in 102

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. Bob Keenan, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)

Members Excused: Rep. David Bedey (R)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Paul Tuss (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 17 02/09/2023
HB 55 02/09/2023
HB 226 02/08/2023
HB 424 02/07/2023

Executive Action:

15:28:38 Chair Jones

15:28:50 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 17 - Provide for implementation of certified community behavioral health clinic model

Opening Statement:

15:29:08 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 17, Provide for implementation of certified community behavioral health clinic model.

Proponent Testimony:

15:32:16 Rachel Green, Governor's Health Policy Advisor

15:33:31 Mary Windecker, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana (BHAM)

15:36:30 Mike Randol, Executive Director, Medicaid and Health Services, State Medicaid Director

15:39:08 Leanna Troesh, self

15:42:11 Matt Kuntz, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness for Montana (NAMI Montana)

[EXHIBIT\(230213APHa1\)](#)

15:45:28 Jennifer Perble, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), self

15:46:31 Magge Bornstein, ACLU Montana

15:47:45 Katherine Buckley-Patton, Deputy Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:29:10 Vice Chair Caferro, Rep. Tuss, and Rep. Nave joined the meeting.

15:50:05 Rep. Bob Keenan

15:51:26 Mike Randol, Medicaid

15:52:28 Gene Hermanson, Chief Financial Officer, Medicaid, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

15:53:12 Rep. Bob Keenan

15:53:35 Jennifer Perble, AFSP

15:55:05 Mike Randol, Medicaid

15:56:05 Rep. Naarah Hastings

15:56:28 Rep. Ed Stafman-D

15:56:49 Megan Peele, Chief, Children's Mental Health Bureau

15:57:45 Rep. Fiona Nave

15:59:28 Mike Randol, Medicaid

16:01:01 Mary Windecker, BHAM missed above

16:01:44 Rep. Mary Caferro

16:02:01 Matt Kuntz, NAMI Montana

16:03:15 Rep. Terry Moore

16:04:28 Mike Randol, Medicaid

16:07:50 Rep. Read left the meeting.

16:08:16 Rep. Mary Caferro

16:09:30 Mike Randol, Medicaid

16:09:41 Rep. Bedey joined the meeting.

16:10:18 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:13:06 Mike Randol, Medicaid

16:14:05 Gene Hermanson, Medicaid

Closing Statement:

16:16:15 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 17.

HEARING ON HB 55 - An act establishing a tax on electric vehicle charging stations

Opening Statement:

16:22:48 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 55, An act establishing a tax on electric vehicle charging stations.

Proponent Testimony:

16:27:15 Amy Grmoljez, Montana Dakota Utilities Resources (MDU)

Opponent Testimony:

16:28:54 Charles Dennoh, Tesla

16:33:16 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

16:36:18 Evora Glenn, Energy Program Specialist, City of Missoula

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:37:00 Larry Flynn, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

16:37:24 Eric Strauss, Administrator, Employment Standards Division, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

16:37:49 Dan Lloyd, Chief, Energy Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

16:19:13 Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

16:19:37 Rep. Read joined the meeting.

16:31:00 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

16:38:25 Rep. Michele Binkley

16:38:53 Charles Dennoh, Tesla

16:40:06 Rep. Fiona Nave

16:40:55 Sponsor

16:44:20 Charles Dennoh, Tesla

16:44:35 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:46:04 Charles Dennoh, Tesla
16:46:58 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
16:47:45 Sponsor
16:49:28 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
16:49:48 Charles Dennoh, Tesla
16:51:19 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
16:52:04 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard
16:52:35 Charles Dennoh, Tesla
16:53:35 Rep. Llew Jones
16:55:10 Charles Dennoh, Tesla

Closing Statement:

16:58:19 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 55.

HEARING ON HB 226 - Generally revise pension laws

Opening Statement:

17:00:54 Rep. Terry Moore (R), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 226, Generally revise pension laws.

Proponent Testimony:

17:05:35 William Hollahan, Deputy Director, Public Employees Retirement Administration (PERA)

17:06:58 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

17:09:16 Liam McCollum, Americans for Prosperity Montana

Opponent Testimony:

17:10:14 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:13:53 Steven Gassenberger, Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation

Questions from Committee:

17:00:57 Vice Chair Keenan assumed the gavel.

17:01:30 Vice Chair Caferro left the meeting.

17:11:48 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

17:12:21 Rep. Terry Moore-R

17:15:39 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

17:16:18 William Hollahan, PERA

17:18:03 Rep. Terry Falk

17:19:21 Rep. Terry Moore-R

17:22:09 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:22:30 William Hollahan, PERA

17:23:18 Rep. Mercer and Rep. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.

17:23:32 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:23:54 Jason Rittal, MACo

17:24:06 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

[EXHIBIT\(230213APHa2\)](#)

17:27:30 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:27:31 William Hollahan, PERA

Closing Statement:

17:28:35 Rep. Terry Moore (R), HD 54, closed the hearing on HB 226.

HEARING ON HB 424 - Generally revise sustainability of state finance and provide for transfers

Opening Statement:

17:31:51 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 424, Generally revise sustainability of state finance and provide for transfers.

Proponent Testimony:

17:39:20 Ryan Evans, Assistant Budget Director, Governor's Office

17:42:52 Amanda Kaster, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230213APHa3\)](#)

17:48:05 MistyAnn Giles, Director, Department of Administration (DOA)

17:50:10 Bruce Vincent, self

17:55:16 Mark Peck, self

17:59:48 Larry Nielsen, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

18:00:32 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association (MLA)

18:01:53 Cory Cheguis, Fire Chief, Fire Warden, Custer County

18:05:02 Helen Thigpen, Montana University System

18:05:41 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

18:07:12 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

18:08:27 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association, Montana Cattle Women, Montana Public Lands Council, Montana Association of State Grazing Districts

18:10:09 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

18:10:42 Amy Grmoljez, American Property and Casualty Insurers Association

18:11:48 Noah Marion, Wild Montana, Montana Trout Unlimited

18:12:33 Paul McKenzie, FH Stolz Land and Lumber Company

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:49:23 Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.
17:56:57 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.
18:00:15 Rep. Read left the meeting.
18:14:10 Rep. Jim Hamilton
18:14:26 Rep. Read joined the meeting.
18:14:54 Rep. Llew Jones
18:19:29 Rep. Terry Falk
18:19:45 Rep. Llew Jones
18:24:46 Amanda Kaster, DNRC
18:24:57 Rep. Terry Falk
18:26:10 Rep. Llew Jones
18:29:04 Rep. Terry Falk
18:30:20 Rep. Llew Jones
18:32:03 Rep. Fiona Nave
18:32:32 Rep. Llew Jones

Closing Statement:

18:33:16 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 424.
18:34:14 Chair Keenan
18:34:36 Chair Jones assumed the gavel.
18:34:53 Chair Jones
18:35:05 Rep. Mercer

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:35:37

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230213APHaad\)](#)