

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

Call to Order: Chair Fred Anderson-R, on February 13, 2023 at 3:07 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Staff Present: Rose Harmon, Secretary
Amanda Persons, Remote Meeting Coordinator
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 & Date Posted:

HB 403 02/06/2023

HB 445 02/09/2023

SB 129 02/10/2023

Executive Action:

15:09:34 Rep. Thane has arrived
15:10:15 Rep. Ler has arrived
15:10:17 Rep. Seekins-Crowe has arrived

HEARING ON HB 403 - Generally revise laws concerning fees for teacher and specialist certificates

Opening Statement:

15:10:32 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 403, Generally revise laws concerning fees for teacher and specialist certificates.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:12:55 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Public Instruction, (CFO-OPI)
[EXHIBIT\(230213EDHa1\)](#)
15:21:02 Amanda Curtis, President Elect, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
15:23:50 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:25:10 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Montana Board of Public Education
15:25:40 Crystal Andrews, Director, Educator Licensure and Accreditation, Office of Public Instruction (ELA-OPI)

Questions from Committee:

15:26:00 Rep. Sherry Essmann
15:27:03 Crystal Andrews, ELA-OPI
15:27:24 Jay Phillips, CFO-OPI

15:27:33 Rep. Sherry Essmann
15:27:35 Jay Phillips, CFO-OPI
15:31:24 Rep. Mark Thane-D
15:32:02 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
15:33:05 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:35:44 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
15:35:59 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:37:42 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
15:38:13 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:39:44 Rep. Eric Matthews
15:40:23 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:40:57 Rep. Eric Matthews
15:41:17 Rep. David Bedey-R
15:41:53 Rep. James Bergstrom

Closing Statement:

15:42:21 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 403.

Discussion:

15:45:35 Chair Fred Anderson passed the gavel and Chair position over to Vice Chair Linda Reksten.

15:45:36 Chair Fred Anderson left the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 129 - Revise laws related to compulsory attendance

Opening Statement:

15:45:57 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R), SD 14, opened the hearing on SB 129, Revise laws related to compulsory attendance.

Proponent Testimony:

15:47:47 Kelsey Brown, Principal, Cut Bank, MT (Principal)
15:51:24 Charlie Brown, Teacher, Fairfield High School
15:52:39 Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA); Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

Opponent Testimony:

15:55:43 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity
15:59:15 Steve White, Legislative Liaison, Montana Coalition of Home Educators

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:06:57 Rep. Melissa Romano
16:07:27 Kelsey Brown, Principal
16:08:29 Rep. Melissa Romano
16:08:40 Kelsey Brown, Principal
16:08:47 Rep. Melissa Romano
16:09:02 Kelsey Brown, Principal
16:10:10 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf
16:12:28 Kelsey Brown, Principal
16:12:45 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf
16:12:50 Kelsey Brown, Principal
16:12:58 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf
16:14:01 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel-R
16:14:26 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf
16:14:50 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel-R
16:15:25 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:15:57 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel-R

16:16:18 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

16:16:49 Kelsey Brown, Principal

Closing Statement:

16:17:52 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R), SD 14, closed the hearing on SB 129.

HEARING ON HB 445 - Establish mentoring program for new teachers

Opening Statement:

16:19:40 Rep. Melissa Romano (D), HD 81, opened the hearing on HB 445, Establish mentoring program for new teachers.

Proponent Testimony:

16:24:29 Daniel Farr, North/South/East Rural Schools (NSERS)

16:28:05 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees

[EXHIBIT\(230213EDHa2\)](#)

16:31:38 Jenny Murnane-Butcher, Executive Director, Montanans Organized for Education

16:33:52 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC); Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

16:36:50 Linda Rost, 2020 Montana teacher of the year, Baker MT

16:38:25 Chair Fred Anderson joined the meeting.

16:40:08 Kelly Connoly, Public school educator and instructional coach

16:42:57 Christopher Linhart, Teacher - Hobson MT

16:47:00 Abby Kuhl, Public school educator and instructional coach

16:50:04 Melissa Tovaas, Executive Director, School Services of Montana

16:55:00 Christopher Shoup, Early career teacher

16:58:33 Nicole Peterson, Public school educator

17:00:25 Scout Sutton, Teacher

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:03:03 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Montana Board of Public Education

Questions from Committee:

17:03:51 Rep. Marta Bertoglio-R

17:04:08 Rep. Melissa Romano-D

17:05:20 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

17:05:56 Rep. Melissa Romano-D

17:06:32 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

17:06:46 Rep. Melissa Romano-D

Closing Statement:

17:07:11 Rep. Melissa Romano (D), HD 81, closed the hearing on HB 445.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:09:16

Rose Harmon, Secretary

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