

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Fred Anderson-R, on February 15, 2023 at 3:23 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. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)

**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 393 02/07/2023  
HB 450 02/13/2023  
HB 458 02/10/2023

Executive Action:

HB 338 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 346 DO PASS  
HB 382 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 332 DO PASS AS AMENDED

**HEARING ON HB 393 - Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act**

**Opening Statement:**

15:25:23 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 393, Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:28:58 Elsie Arntzen, Montana State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent)

15:30:32 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation

15:32:56 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Montana Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230215EDHa1\)](#)

15:35:50 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:36:43 Debra Silk, Associate Executive Director and General Council, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

15:44:26 Tal Goldin, Supervising Attorney for Education, Employment and Benefits, Disability Rights Montana (DRMT)

15:48:51 Rep. Brandon Ler left the meeting.

15:49:35 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

15:54:34 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe left the meeting.

15:56:37 Sarah Novak, Special Education Director and President of Montana Council of Administrators for Special Education (MCASE)

16:04:27 Sarah Piper, Director of Policy and Research, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

16:07:11 Rep. Marta Bertoglio left the meeting.

16:07:25 Sean Conroe, Ability Montana Center for Independent Living (AMTCIL)

16:08:13 Jenny Murnane-Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE)

16:10:22 Daniel Farr, North/South/East Rural Schools (NSERS)

16:13:04 Rep. Marta Bertoglio joined the meeting.

16:14:00 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:15:59 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

16:16:20 JP Williams, Director of Special Education, Office of Public Instruction (SE-OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:17:00 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:17:57 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

16:18:48 JP Williams, SE-OPI

16:19:13 Rep. Eric Matthews

16:19:39 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

16:20:04 Rep. Eric Matthews

16:20:27 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

16:21:08 Rep. Mark Thane

16:21:41 Debra Silk, CAMPS

16:23:04 Rep. Melissa Romano

16:23:28 Debra Silk, CAMPS

16:24:05 Rep. Lee Deming

16:24:54 Tal Goldin, DRMT

[EXHIBIT\(230215EDHa2\)](#)

16:26:10 Rep. Lee Deming

16:26:21 Tal Goldin, DRMT

**Closing Statement:**

16:26:42 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 393.

**Discussion:**

16:30:12 Chair Fred Anderson turned the Chair position over to Vice Chair Reksten

16:32:23 Rep. Sherry Essmann joined the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 458 - Generally revise regulations governing the eligibility of career coaches**

**Opening Statement:**

16:30:07 Chair Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 458, Generally revise regulations governing the eligibility of career coaches.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:34:20 Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent)

[EXHIBIT\(230215EDHa3\)](#)

16:36:19 Rep. Brandon Ler left the meeting.

16:37:27 David Smith, Executive Director, Montana Contractor's Association

16:39:26 Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA); Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:43:57 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Montana Board of Public Education

16:44:21 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

**Questions from Committee:**

16:44:40 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:45:18 Elsie Arnzten, Superintendent

**Closing Statement:**

16:47:57 Chair Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, closed the hearing on HB 458.

**Discussion:**

16:48:45 Rep. Fred Anderson resumed position as Committee Chair

**HEARING ON HB 450 - Protect physical self-defense in K-12 schools**

**Opening Statement:**

16:48:49 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 450, Protect physical self-defense in K-12 schools.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:52:30 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA); Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

[EXHIBIT\(230215EDHa4\)](#)

16:56:53 Sarah Piper, Director of Policy, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:57:52 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:58:16 Sarah Piper, MFPE

16:58:53 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:59:02 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

17:00:01 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

17:00:43 Lance Melton, CAMPS

17:02:14 Rep. Lee Deming

**Closing Statement:**

17:02:58 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 450.

17:09:00 **Recessed**

17:19:28 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 338 - Revise laws related to Indian Education for All**

17:19:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 338 DO PASS.**

17:20:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 338 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:19:50 Laura Sankey Keip

17:22:53 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf

17:23:50 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

17:24:08 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf

17:20:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:26:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 338 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:25:29 Rep. James Bergstrom

17:26:04 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf

17:26:17 Rep. Mark Thane

17:26:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 346 - Revise the tribal computer programming scholarship program**

17:27:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 346 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:28:06 Laura Sankey Keip

17:28:35 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

17:29:03 Chair Fred Anderson  
17:29:23 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy-D, HD 32  
17:30:17 Rep. Mark Thane  
17:30:40 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf  
17:30:56 Rep. Mark Thane  
17:27:01 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 382 - Revise education laws related to career and technology student organizations**

17:32:30 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 382 DO PASS.**  
**Discussion:**  
17:32:32 Laura Sankey Keip  
17:32:55 Rep. Mark Thane  
17:33:54 Chair Fred Anderson  
17:34:20 **Motion:** Rep. Mark Thane moved that **HB 382 BE AMENDED.**  
17:34:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
17:34:38 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 382 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
17:34:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 332 - Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits**

17:36:11 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 332 DO PASS.**  
17:36:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 332 BE AMENDED.**  
**Discussion:**  
17:36:13 Laura Sankey Keip  
17:37:02 Lance Melton, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)  
17:46:46 Vice Chair Linda Reksten  
17:47:03 Lance Melton, CAMPS  
17:36:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- 17:48:59      **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 332 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 17:48:01      **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:50:35

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Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230215EDHaad\)](#)