

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Fred Anderson-R, on February 17, 2023 at 2:31 PM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)  
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (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 501 02/15/2023  
HB 503 02/15/2023  
HB 504 02/16/2023

Executive Action:

HB 396 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 259 TO TABLE  
HB 458 DO PASS

14:33:36           **Recessed**

14:46:55           **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 396 - Require school trustees to admit resident children on a part-time basis**

14:47:49           **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 396 DO PASS.**

14:48:24           **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 396 BE AMENDED.**

14:48:55           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:50:01           **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 396 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

15:50:55           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 259 - Revise teacher license laws**

14:51:00           **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 259 DO PASS.**

14:51:20           **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 259 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:53:11           Rep. Lee Deming

14:53:40           Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:51:55           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:54:40           **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 259 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:54:52           Rep. Mark Thane

14:56:10           Rep. Eric Matthews

14:56:23           Vice Chair Linda Reksten

14:56:46           Laura Sankey Keip

14:57:34           Rep. Mark Thane

- 14:57:33        **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Mark Thane moved that **HB 259 TO TABLE.**
- 14:57:55        **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 10 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting no.

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

- 15:00:20        **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 458 DO PASS.**
- 15:00:55        **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**HEARING ON HB 501 - Revise school textbook laws**

**Opening Statement:**

- 15:01:12        Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 501, Revise school textbook laws.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230217EDHa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

- 15:02:56        Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent)

**Opponent Testimony:**

- 15:05:15        Jenny Murnane-Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized For Education (MOFE)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

- 15:06:34        Rob Stutz, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

- 15:07:07        Rep. Mark Thane
- 15:07:52        Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
- 15:09:20        Rep. Mark Thane
- 15:10:09        Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
- 15:11:48        Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:12:13 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
15:12:20 Rep. Eric Matthews  
15:13:25 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
15:17:03 Rep. Eric Matthews  
15:17:45 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
15:19:21 Rep. Melissa Romano  
15:19:48 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
15:21:48 Rep. Melissa Romano  
15:22:17 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
15:24:48 Rep. Mark Thane  
15:25:13 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
15:26:48 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:28:02 Rep. Sherry Essmann  
15:28:43 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
15:29:12 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:29:56 Chair Fred Anderson  
15:30:10 Rep. Sherry Essmann  
15:30:51 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:32:31 Rep. Sherry Essmann  
15:33:09 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:33:46 Chair Fred Anderson

**Closing Statement:**

15:35:30 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 501.

**HEARING ON HB 503 - Generally revise education laws related to teacher certification**

**Opening Statement:**

15:36:43 Rep. Naarah Hastings (R), HD 50, opened the hearing on HB 503,  
Generally revise education laws related to teacher certification.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:39:18 Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction  
(Superintendent)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:42:20 Larry Nielsen, Montana Federation of Public Employees

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:43:55 Rob Stutz, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:44:22 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:45:31 Rob Stutz, OPI

15:45:58 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:46:03 Rob Stutz, OPI

15:46:22 Rep. Eric Matthews

15:46:41 Rob Stutz, OPI

15:47:34 Rep. Eric Matthews

15:47:38 Rob Stutz, OPI

15:47:59 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

15:48:29 Rob Stutz, OPI

15:49:21 Rep. Eric Matthews

15:50:28 Rob Stutz, OPI

15:51:15 Rep. Melissa Romano

15:51:33 Rob Stutz, OPI

15:52:15 Rep. Melissa Romano  
15:52:33 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:52:47 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe  
15:53:13 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:54:10 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe  
15:54:30 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:54:52 Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
15:55:12 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:55:55 Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
15:56:04 Rob Stutz, OPI  
15:56:22 Rep. Mark Thane  
15:56:49 Rob Stutz, OPI

**Closing Statement:**

15:57:19 Rep. Naarah Hastings (R), HD 50, closed the hearing on HB 503.

**HEARING ON HB 504 - Revise school laws to require trustees to adopt a grievance policy**

**Opening Statement:**

15:58:20 Rep. Naarah Hastings (R), HD 50, opened the hearing on HB 504, Revise school laws to require trustees to adopt a grievance policy.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230217EDHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230217EDHa3\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:01:04 Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction  
(Superintendent)

- 16:04:35 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC); Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
- 16:05:40 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

- 16:07:07 Rob Stutz, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

- 16:07:36 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
- 16:08:10 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
- 16:08:59 Rep. Mark Thane
- 16:09:18 Lance Melton, MSBA
- 16:09:49 Rep. Mark Thane
- 16:10:03 Lance Melton, MSBA

**Closing Statement:**

- 16:10:23 Rep. Naarah Hastings (R), HD 50, closed the hearing on HB 504.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:11:07

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230217EDHaad\)](#)