

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Llew Jones-R, on February 20, 2023 at 3:06 PM, in 102

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. David Bedey (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Bob Keenan (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (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 311 02/16/2023

HB 381 02/16/2023

HB 408 02/16/2023

Executive Action:

HB 311 DO PASS

HB 381 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 301 DO PASS

HB 321 TO TABLE

HB 375 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HEARING ON HB 408 - Revise student scholarship organization and innovative education tax credits

Opening Statement:

15:08:11 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 408, Revise student scholarship organization and innovative education tax credits.

Proponent Testimony:

15:09:15 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor

15:10:30 Emily Dean, Director of Advocacy, Montana School Boards Association, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools

15:11:30 Ross Izard, Director, Policy and Government Relations, ACE Scholarships

Opponent Testimony:

15:12:15 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:15:34 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:16:08 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:16:26 Robert Finstad, Deputy Administrator, Technology Services, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

15:17:04 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:17:26 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

15:19:12 Paul Taylor OPI

15:19:44 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:20:17 Paul Taylor OPI

15:21:58 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:22:57 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

15:23:10 Paul Taylor OPI

15:23:54 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

15:24:27	Paul Taylor OPI
15:26:19	Rep. Connie Keogh
15:27:05	Erik Burke, MFPE
15:28:59	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
15:30:03	Paul Taylor OPI
15:30:37	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
15:31:06	Rep. Sue Vinton-R
15:31:27	Rep. David Bedey
15:32:33	Paul Taylor OPI
15:33:45	Rep. David Bedey
15:35:03	Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
15:35:56	Paul Taylor OPI
15:39:27	Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
15:40:04	Rep. Sue Vinton-R
15:41:18	Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:41:47	Paul Taylor OPI
15:43:04	Robert Finstad, DOR
15:43:50	Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:44:27	Rep. Sue Vinton-R
15:47:37	Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:48:15	Rep. Sue Vinton-R
15:49:09	Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:49:29	Rep. Paul Tuss
15:50:02	Erik Burke, DOR

15:51:02 Rep. Llew Jones
15:51:26 Paul Taylor OPI
15:53:13 Rep. Llew Jones
15:53:25 Ross Izard, ACE Scholarships

Closing Statement:

15:54:47 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 408.

HEARING ON HB 311 - Establish a chemical dependency treatment voucher program

Opening Statement:

15:55:20 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, opened the hearing on HB 311,
Establish a chemical dependency treatment voucher program.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:58:36 Rebecca DeCamera, Administrator, Behavioral Health and Developmental
Disabilities Division, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

15:08:55 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.
15:11:58 Vice Chair Keenan joined the meeting.
15:14:37 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.
15:22:05 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.
15:45:20 Rep. Mercer and Rep. Windy Boy left the meeting.
15:53:30 Rep. Hopkins joined the meeting.
15:55:08 Vice Chair Caferro left the meeting.

15:58:10 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.
15:59:15 Rep. Jane Gillette
15:59:45 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:01:09 Rep. Bill Mercer
16:01:45 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:04:17 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.
16:04:37 Rep. David Bedey
16:04:51 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:07:15 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:08:03 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:09:36 Rep. Jane Gillette
16:10:12 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:11:15 Rep. Jane Gillette
16:11:39 Rep. Michael Yakawich-R
16:11:51 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:12:20 Rep. Jane Gillette
16:12:32 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:12:42 Rep. Bill Mercer
16:13:26 Rebecca DeCamera, DPHHS
16:14:19 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

Closing Statement:

16:15:21 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, closed the hearing on HB 311.

HEARING ON HB 381 - Revise laws related to methamphetamine contamination

Opening Statement:

16:19:10 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 381, Revise laws related to methamphetamine contamination.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:22:32 Rick Thompson, Chief, Waste Management Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

16:18:15 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

16:23:11 Rep. Jane Gillette

16:23:32 Rick Thompson, DEQ

16:24:01 16:24 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

16:26:16 Rep. Jane Gillette

16:26:38 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

16:27:08 Rep. Llew Jones

16:27:18 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

16:29:12 Rep. David Bedey

16:30:46 Rick Thompson, DEQ

16:33:32 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:34:45 Rep. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.

16:35:32 Rick Thompson, DEQ

16:36:19 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

16:37:53 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:38:59 Rick Thompson, DEQ
16:40:24 Rep. David Bedey
16:40:55 Rick Thompson, DEQ
16:41:47 Rep. Joe Read
16:42:09 Rick Thompson, DEQ
16:42:44 Rep. Joe Read

Closing Statement:

16:43:16 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, closed the hearing on HB 381.
16:44:29 Chair Jones
16:44:35 Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.
16:44:57 Rep. Gillette
16:45:12 Chair Jones
16:47:20 Recessed
17:09:15 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 311 - Establish a chemical dependency treatment voucher program

17:09:24 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 311 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:09:45 Rep. Jane Gillette
17:10:35 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:11:41 Rep. David Bedey
17:12:06 Rep. Bob Keenan
17:12:54 Rep. Mary Caferro
17:14:07 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
17:15:31 Rep. Jane Gillette
17:16:12 Rep. Mary Caferro

17:09:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, Rep. Tuss, voting no.
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 381 - Revise laws related to methamphetamine contamination

17:17:38 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 381 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:18:00 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:18:11 Julie Johnson

17:18:33 Rep. Llew Jones

17:18:45 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **HB 381 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:19:00 Rep. David Bedey

17:19:52 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

17:20:24 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:18:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Read, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

17:22:53 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 381 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:23:06 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

17:22:53 **Vote:** Motion carried 22 - 1 by roll call vote with Rep. Stewart Peregoy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 301 - Revise laws relating to dangerous drugs

17:24:47 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 301 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:24:52 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:24:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 22 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Caferro, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 321 - Generally revise laws related to the coal trust

17:26:35 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 321 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:26:41 Rep. Llew Jones

17:26:54 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 321 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:27:17 Rep. Llew Jones

17:30:53 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:31:42 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Llew Jones moved that **HB 321 WITHDRAW HIS MOTION TO AMEND HB 321.**

17:32:02 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 321 DO PASS.**

17:32:02 **Vote:** Motion failed 14 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Jones, Rep. Read, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Windy Boy, voting yes.

17:33:11 **Motion:** Rep. Llew Jones moved that **HB 321 TO TABLE.**

17:33:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 9 by voice vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Jones, Rep. Read, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 375 - Appropriate funds to pave road providing access to Lost Creek State Park

17:33:37 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 375 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:33:47 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

17:34:08 **Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 375 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:34:40 Rep. Llew Jones

17:34:08 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:35:18 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 375 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:35:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 19 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Mercer, Rep. Nave,
Rep. Regier, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, voting no.
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

17:37:13 Chair Jones

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:40:00

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230220APHaad\)](#)