

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Paul Fielder-R, on February 21, 2023 at 8:02 AM, in 152

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Paul Fielder, Chair (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Tom Welch, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)  
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)  
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern (D)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Russel Miner (R)  
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)

**Staff Present:** Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary  
Megan Moore, 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 476 02/14/2023

HB 481 02/14/2023

HB 530 02/16/2023

Executive Action:

HB 407 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 420 TO TABLE  
HB 441 TO TABLE  
HB 442 TO TABLE

08:04:23 Chair Paul Fielder  
08:04:34 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division

**HEARING ON HB 476 - Provide for property tax exemption for certain residential property**

**Opening Statement:**

08:07:42 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 476, Provide for property tax exemption for certain residential property.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:12:40 Lisa Bennett, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:14:15 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)  
08:16:50 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)  
08:17:32 Darryl James, Executive Director, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)  
08:19:16 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula  
[EXHIBIT\(230221TAHa1\)](#)  
08:22:28 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
08:23:52 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:25:01 Bryce Kaatz  
08:25:17 Dylan Cole, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:25:47 Rep. Marty Malone  
08:25:58 Jim Sill, MAR  
08:26:28 Rep. Marty Malone  
08:26:33 Jim Sill, MAR

08:27:04 Vice Chair Mark Thane

08:28:17 Rep. Steven Galloway-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:29:35 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 476.

**HEARING ON HB 481 - Increase rate of inflation limit for calculating property tax levies**

**Opening Statement:**

08:33:03 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 481, Increase rate of inflation limit for calculating property tax levies.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:36:38 Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County/Montana Associations of Counties, (MACo)

08:38:57 Jason Strouf, Commissioner, Custer County

08:39:56 Shane Gorder, Commissioner, Richland County

08:40:35 Todd Devlin, Prairie County/Montana Association of Counties, (MACO)

08:41:45 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition, (MIC)

08:43:27 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

08:44:51 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns, (MLCT)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:47:58 Rep. Tanner Smith

08:48:44 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R

08:49:14 Rep. Scot Kerns

08:50:17 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R  
08:50:35 Rep. Dave Fern  
08:51:35 Rep. Marty Malone  
08:51:55 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R  
08:52:16 Rep. Dave Fern  
08:52:53 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R  
08:53:15 Rep. Dave Fern  
08:53:43 Kelley Lynch Ex. Dir. MT League of Cities and Towns  
08:54:08 Vice Chair Mark Thane

**Closing Statement:**

08:55:24 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 481.

**HEARING ON HB 530 - Revise port authority mill levies**

**Opening Statement:**

08:56:57 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 530, Revise port authority mill levies.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:01:19 Rep. Dave Fern  
09:01:38 Rep. Tony Brockman-R

09:02:32 Rep. Dave Fern  
09:02:58 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:03:47 Rep. Sue Vinton  
09:04:06 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:04:41 Rep. Marler  
09:04:54 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:05:59 Rep. Marler  
09:07:14 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:07:56 Rep. Marler  
09:08:07 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:08:59 Rep. Scot Kerns  
09:09:14 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:09:44 Rep. Scot Kerns  
09:10:39 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:10:59 Vice Chair Mark Thane  
09:11:21 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:11:57 Rep. Edward Butcher  
09:12:39 Rep. Tony Brockman-R  
09:13:10 Rep. Tanner Smith  
09:13:22 Rep. Tony Brockman-R

**Closing Statement:**

09:13:47 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 530.

09:15:36 **Recessed**

09:35:12 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 407 - Provide for affordable housing abatements**

09:35:47 **Motion:** Rep. Dave Fern moved that **HB 407 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

09:36:02 Rep. Dave Fern

09:36:19 **Motion:** Rep. Dave Fern moved that **HB 407 BE AMENDED.**

**Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Kerns, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Vinton, voting no.  
Rep. Knudsen, By Proxy

09:39:53 **Motion:** Rep. Dave Fern moved that **HB 407 BE AMENDED.**

**Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Fielder, Rep. Kerns, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Vinton, voting no.  
Rep. Kerns, Rep. Knudsen, By Proxy

09:42:37 **Motion:** Rep. Dave Fern moved that **HB 407 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:42:50 Rep. George Nikolakakos

09:43:14 Rep. Marty Malone

09:43:25 Rep. Dave Fern

**Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Brewster, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Kerns, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Malone, Rep. Vinton, voting no.  
Rep. Knudsen, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 420 - Generally revise marijuana laws**

09:46:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom Welch moved that **HB 420 DO PASS.**

09:46:49 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom Welch moved that **HB 420 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:47:07 Rep. Jill Cohenour

09:47:17 Megan Moore

**Vote:** Motion carried 19 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Kerns, Rep. Vinton, voting no.

09:49:07 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom Welch moved that **HB 420 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:49:28 Rep. Joshua Kassmier

09:49:35 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved that **HB 420 BE TABLED.**

**Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 441 - Implement report cards for nonpublic schools receiving tax credit scholarships**

09:50:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom Welch moved that **HB 441 DO PASS.**

09:50:49 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Sue Vinton moved that **HB 441 BE TABLED.**

**Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 442 - Require testing for nonpublic schools receiving tax credit scholarships**

09:51:44 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom Welch moved that **HB 442 DO PASS.**

09:51:59 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Sue Vinton moved that **HB 442 BE TABLED.**

**Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 09:53:33

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Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230221TAHaad\)](#)