

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Llew Jones-R, on February 22, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 102

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Bob Keenan, Vice 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. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)

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 332 02/21/2023
HB 398 02/21/2023
HB 569 02/17/2023

Executive Action:

HB 174 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 225 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 297 DO PASS AS AMENDED

18:07:42

Quinn Holzer, LFD

HEARING ON HB 569 - Generally revise pension laws

Opening Statement:

15:04:38 Rep. Terry Moore (R), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 569, Generally revise pension laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:09:56 Jessie Luther, Association of Montana Troopers (AMT)

15:15:04 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:17:02 William Hollahan, Deputy Director, Montana Public Employees Retirement Association (MPERA)

Questions from Committee:

15:17:34 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

15:18:03 William Hollahan, MPERA

15:18:58 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:19:38 William Hollahan, MPERA

15:22:53 Brian Thompson, MSPOA

15:24:08 Rep. Terry Moore-R

15:27:04 Rep. Fiona Nave

15:28:42 Rep. Terry Moore-R

15:29:41 Rep. David Bedey

15:31:50 Brian Thompson, MSPOA
15:33:24 Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:33:43 Jessie Luther, AMT
15:36:31 Rep. Bob Keenan

Closing Statement:

15:36:51 Rep. Terry Moore (R), HD 54, closed the hearing on HB 569.

HEARING ON HB 398 - Define recidivism for executive branch and judicial branch reporting

Opening Statement:

15:41:28 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 398, Define recidivism for executive branch and judicial branch reporting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:44:56 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

15:45:10 Rep. Jane Gillette
15:46:55 Natalie Smitham, DOC
15:47:50 Rep. Jane Gillette
15:48:21 Rep. Bill Mercer-R
15:52:13 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
15:52:25 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

15:54:20 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
15:54:44 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
15:55:52 Rep. Bill Mercer-R
16:11:40 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy

Closing Statement:

16:12:21 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 398.

HEARING ON HB 332 - Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits

Opening Statement:

16:12:52 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 332, Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits.

Proponent Testimony:

16:15:28 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools
16:20:34 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Opponent Testimony:

16:23:24 Bruce Spencer, Joint Powers Trust (JPT)

[EXHIBIT\(230222APHa1\)](#)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:08:27 Rep. Gillette has left
15:08:40 Rep. Stewart Peregoy has left
15:18:23 Rep. Stewart Peregoy has arrived
15:18:33 Rep. Gillette has arrived
15:23:03 Rep. Hopkins has arrived

15:41:42 Rep. Hastings has left

15:45:52 Rep. Jones has arrived

15:52:41 Rep. Caferro has arrived

16:14:56 Rep. Hastings has arrived

16:27:18 Rep. Windy Boy has left

16:27:49 Rep. Terry Moore

16:28:08 Rep. Joe Read left the meeting.

16:28:33 Rep. David Bedey

16:36:54 Rep. Jane Gillette

16:37:22 Rep. Joe Read joined the meeting.

16:37:43 Bruce Spencer, JPT

16:44:23 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

16:44:54 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting.

16:45:31 Rep. David Bedey

16:46:03 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

16:46:10 Rep. David Bedey

16:46:52 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

16:47:05 Rep. David Bedey

16:47:31 Rep. Connie Keogh

16:48:03 Lance Melton, MSBA

16:53:34 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:54:07 Rep. Mary Caferro left the meeting.

16:58:52 Lance Melton, MSBA

17:01:02 Rep. Llew Jones

17:02:31 Lance Melton, MSBA
17:03:46 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:04:49 Lance Melton, MSBA
17:10:46 Rep. Jane Gillette
17:11:05 Rep. David Bedey-R
17:12:13 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.
17:13:13 Lance Melton, MSBA
17:16:18 Rep. Terry Moore left the meeting.
17:17:03 Rep. Bob Keenan left the meeting.
17:19:47 Rep. Llew Jones
17:19:52 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting.
17:20:39 Rep. Terry Falk
17:22:05 Lance Melton, MSBA
17:24:56 Rep. Terry Falk
17:25:21 Bruce Spencer, JPT

Closing Statement:

17:26:53 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 332.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 174 - Requiring certain costs paid to detention centers to be based on actual costs

17:35:13 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 174 DO PASS.**

17:35:44 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **HB 174 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:36:04 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:39:58 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

- 17:40:47 Rep. David Bedey
- 17:42:50 Rep. Llew Jones joined the meeting.
- 17:43:23 Rep. John Fitzpatrick left the meeting.
- 17:43:28 Rep. John Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.
- 17:43:36 Rep. Bill Mercer
- 17:35:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Read, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.
- 17:47:34 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 174 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 17:47:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 19 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 225 - Establish adoption tax credit

- 17:48:45 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 225 DO PASS.**
- 17:49:17 **Motion:** Rep. Terry Moore moved that **HB 225 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:49:35 Rep. Terry Moore
- 17:49:17 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.
- 17:52:18 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 225 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:52:59 Rep. Mary Caferro
- 17:53:50 Rep. Jane Gillette
- 17:54:36 Rep. Bob Keenan
- 17:55:03 Rep. Jim Hamilton
- 17:56:10 Rep. Llew Jones
- 17:52:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Falk, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Regier, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 297 - Revise video gambling machine taxes to allow a deduction for negative income

- 17:57:35 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 297 DO PASS.**
- 17:58:07 **Motion:** Rep. David Bedey moved that **HB 297 BE AMENDED.**
- 17:58:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 18:04:34 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 297 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 18:07:42 Quinn Holzer, LFD
- 18:04:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no. Rep. Regier, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:08:11

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230222APHaad\)](#)