

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Fred Anderson-R, on February 22, 2023 at 2:57 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. Sherry Essmann (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. Brandon Ler (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 535 02/20/2023  
HB 566 02/20/2023  
HB 587 02/20/2023  
HB 588 02/20/2023

Executive Action:

HB 393 DO PASS  
HB 403 DO PASS  
HB 450 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 503 TO TABLE

**HEARING ON HB 587 - Generally revise school finance laws related to property taxes**

**Opening Statement:**

14:59:12 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 587, Generally revise school finance laws related to property taxes.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230222EDHa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:09:38 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:15:30 Nancy Hall, Senior Budget Analyst, Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning, Montana Governor's Office (OBPP)

15:15:45 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:16:15 Rep. Mark Thane

15:16:57 Sponsor

15:17:07 Rep. Braxton Mitchell left the meeting.

15:17:47 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:18:10 Sponsor

**Closing Statement:**

15:21:05 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 587.

**HEARING ON HB 588 - Revise TEACH Act incentives to increase starting teacher salary**

**Opening Statement:**

15:22:25 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 588, Revise TEACH Act incentives to increase starting teacher salary.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:25:21 Emily Dean, Director of Advocacy, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

15:26:19 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:27:29 Becky Belling, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:28:10 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:28:35 Rep. Llew Jones-R

15:29:21 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:29:55 Rep. Llew Jones-R

15:30:58 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:31:19 Rep. Llew Jones-R

15:33:04 Rep. Mark Thane

15:33:27 Rep. Llew Jones-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:34:48 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 588.

**HEARING ON HB 566 - Revise notice requirements for human sexuality instruction**

**Opening Statement:**

15:35:47 Chair Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 566, Revise notice requirements for human sexuality instruction.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:39:54 Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

15:43:03 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:44:04 Elsie Arntzen, Montana State Superintendent of Public Instruction, (Superintendent)

15:47:18 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:52:48 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

15:53:22 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

15:55:25 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

15:56:50 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

15:57:46 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

15:58:18 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

16:01:12 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:01:53 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

16:02:44 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:03:12 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

16:03:46 Rep. Mark Thane

16:05:21 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

16:06:47 Rep. Melissa Romano

16:07:32 Rep. Fred Anderson-R  
16:08:47 Rep. Melissa Romano  
16:08:58 Rep. Fred Anderson-R  
16:09:23 Rep. Lee Deming  
16:10:56 Rep. Fred Anderson-R  
16:11:37 Rep. Lee Deming  
16:11:51 Rep. Fred Anderson-R  
16:12:53 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe  
16:14:02 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:15:30 Chair Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, closed the hearing on HB 566.

**Discussion:**

16:16:24 Chair Fred Anderson left the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 535 - Revising education laws to provide a definition of "financial literacy"**

**Opening Statement:**

16:16:28 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 535, Revising education laws to provide a definition of "financial literacy".

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:17:34 Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction  
(Superintendent)  
16:20:55 David Jensen, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors  
(NAIFA)  
16:24:32 Todd O'Haire, President and Chief Executive Officer, Montana Chamber of  
Commerce  
16:26:55 Brian Nelson, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors  
(NAIFA), Sullivan Financial Group

16:28:39 Laura (Meg) Jacoby, National Association of Insurance and Financial  
Advisors (NAIFA), Jacoby Insurance Group

**Opponent Testimony:**

13:15:28 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

16:32:07 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Montana Board of Public Education  
(MBPE)

16:36:29 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees  
(MFPE)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:35:21 Chair Anderson turned the gavel over to Vice Chair Reksten.

15:35:22 Rep. Anderson left the meeting.

16:38:26 Rep. Mark Thane

16:38:41 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

16:40:14 Rep. Mark Thane

16:40:27 McCall Flynn, MBPE

16:41:26 Rep. Mark Thane

16:41:34 McCall Flynn, MBPE

16:42:33 Rep. Eric Matthews

16:43:08 McCall Flynn, MBPE

16:43:44 Rep. Eric Matthews

16:44:03 McCall Flynn, MBPE

16:44:30 Rep. Eric Matthews

16:45:00 McCall Flynn, MBPE

16:45:28 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

16:45:41 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

16:48:15 Rep. Lee Deming

16:48:54 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

**Closing Statement:**

16:50:23 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 535.

16:51:31 **Recessed**

17:20:18 Rep. Romano has left

17:20:19 **Reconvened**

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

17:20:40 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 393 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:51:15 Chair Reksten returned the gavel to Chair Anderson and resumed her position as Vice Chair.

17:20:57 Laura Sankey Keip

17:21:30 Rep. Mark Thane

17:20:40 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Matthews, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting no.  
Rep. Romano, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 403 - Generally revise laws concerning fees for teacher and specialist certificates**

17:26:03 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 403 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:26:09 Laura Sankey Keip

17:26:12 Chair Fred Anderson

17:27:20 Rep. Eric Matthews

17:28:25 Chair Fred Anderson

17:28:32 McCall Flynn, Board of Public Education (BPE)

17:31:32 Rep. James Bergstrom

17:26:03 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Ler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting no.  
Rep. Ler, Rep. Romano, By Proxy

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

17:33:26 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 450 DO PASS.**

17:34:20 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Eric Matthews moved that **HB 450 TO TABLE.**

17:34:20 **Vote:** Substitute Motion failed 9 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Matthews, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting yes.  
Rep. Romano, By Proxy

17:35:45 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 450 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:35:34 Laura Sankey Keip

17:36:19 Rep. Anderson returned to the meeting

17:37:57 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf

17:38:26 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

17:35:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:41:21 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 450 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:41:35 Rep. Eric Matthews

17:43:01 Rep. Mark Thane

17:44:00 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf

17:41:21 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting no.  
Rep. Romano, By Proxy

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

17:46:22 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 503 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:46:38 Laura Sankey Keip

17:46:48 Rep. Mark Thane

- 17:48:06 Rep. Eric Matthews
- 17:46:22 **Vote:** Motion failed 11 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting yes.
- 17:51:19 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Eric Matthews moved that **HB 503 TO TABLE.**
- 17:51:19 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 17:53:44 Committee started Executive Action on HB504 with a motion to Do Pass followed by a motion to amend. Discussion prior to voting on the amendment resulted in a substitute motion to pass on consideration of HB504 until a later date and rescind the Do Pass motion. The substitute motion was voted on and passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:59:23

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Rose Harmon, Secretary

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