

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON (H) ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Katie Zolnikov-R, on February 22, 2023 at 2:45 PM, in 472

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Chair (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)

Staff Present: Lucinda Blair, Secretary
Trevor Graff, 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 477 02/15/2023

HB 484 02/15/2023

HB 492 02/15/2023

HB 524 02/15/2023

Executive Action:

HB 220 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 558 DO PASS

HJ 6 DO PASS

HEARING ON HB 477 – Generally revise corporation laws regarding tribal entities

Opening Statement:

14:46:58 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D), HD 42, opened the hearing on HB 477, Generally revise corporation laws regarding tribal entities.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

14:50:30 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
14:51:10 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
14:54:40 Rep. Laurie Bishop

Closing Statement:

14:55:44 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D), HD 42, closed the hearing on HB 477.

HEARING ON HB 484 – Establish broadband advisory committee

Opening Statement:

14:58:30 Rep. Katie Sullivan (D), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 484, Establish broadband advisory committee.

Proponent Testimony:

15:04:22 Lance Fourstar, Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC)
15:05:45 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
15:10:10 Ella Smith, Montana Library Association (MLA)

Opponent Testimony:

15:11:20 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:13:55 Rep. Kelly Kortum
15:14:47 Rep. Katie Sullivan
15:18:28 Rep. Laurie Bishop
15:21:40 Chair Katie Zolnikov

Closing Statement:

15:22:45 Rep. Katie Sullivan (D), HD 89, closed the hearing on HB 484.

15:25:00 Vice Chair Steven Galloway assumes the chair.

HEARING ON HB 492 – Revising telecommunications regulation

Opening Statement:

15:25:54 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 492, Revising telecommunications regulation.

Proponent Testimony:

15:28:35 James Brown, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Opponent Testimony:

15:36:00 Geoff Feiss, Broadband Montana
15:41:05 Adrienne Cotton, AARP Montana

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:43:20 Gary Duncan, Public Service Commission (PSC)
15:43:45 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee:

15:44.10 Rep. Kelly Kortum
15:44:40 James Brown, PSC
15:47:50 Gary Duncan, PSC
15:48:38 Chair Steven Galloway
15:55:35 Rep. Bob Phalen

Closing Statement:

15:56:00 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 484.

15:58:50 Chair Katie Zolnikov resumes the chair.

HEARING ON HB 524 – Revise energy laws relating to solar panels

Opening Statement:

15:58:55 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 524, Revise energy laws relating to solar panels.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:02:09 Brad Van Wert, Harvest Solar
16:04:18 Makenna Sellers, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
16:09:30 Charles Denowh, Tesla
16:12:43 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
16:15:17 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
16:16:50 Joan Kresich, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)
16:19:19 John Palm, Bozeman Green Build

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:24.42 Rep. Kelly Kortum

16:25:22 Rep. Joshua Kassmier
16:25:54 Chair Katie Zolnikov
16:30:05 Rep. Laurie Bishop
16:31:50 Rep. Greg Kmetz
16:32:24 Rep. Larry Brewster
16:34:25 Brad Van Wert, Harvest Solar
16:38:30 Rep. Bob Phalen
16:39:05 Patrick Zawakie

Closing Statement:

16:39:53 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 524.

16:40:00 **Recessed**
16:50:22 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 220 – Create select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition

16:50:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steven Galloway moved that **HB 220 DO PASS**.
16:51:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steven Galloway moved that **HB 220 BE AMENDED**.

Discussion:

16:51:10 Chair Katie Zolnikov
Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
16:52:40 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steven Galloway moved that **HB 220 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.
Vote: Motion carried 10-3 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.
Rep. Sullivan, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 558 – Revising PSC deposition laws

16:54:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steven Galloway moved that **HB 558 DO PASS**.
Vote: Motion carried 9 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.
Rep. Sullivan, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 6 – Interim study of electric power resources

16:55:44

Motion: Vice Chair Steven Galloway moved that **HJ 6 DO PASS.**

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:57:49

Lucinda Blair, Secretary

Additional Documents: EXHIBIT(230222FEH)