

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

Call to Order: Chair Bob Phalen-R, on February 22, 2023 at 9:00 AM, in 455

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Julie Dooling, Chair (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Heather Kellum, Secretary
Rebecca Power, 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 529 02/15/2023
HB 536 02/20/2023
HB 540 02/20/2023
HB 577 02/20/2023
HB 716 02/21/2023
HB 712 02/21/2023

Executive Action:

09:02:01 Vice Chair Phalen assumed the Chair

HEARING ON HB 529 - Revise laws related to officials commissioned by the governor

Opening Statement:

09:02:29 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 529, Revise laws related to officials commissioned by the governor.

Proponent Testimony:

09:03:30 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230222STHa1\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:05:43 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

09:06:42 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 529.

HEARING ON HB 536 - Revise laws related to write-in candidates

Opening Statement:

09:07:22 Chair Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 536, Revise laws related to write-in candidates.

Proponent Testimony:

09:09:19 Janel Tucek, Fergus County Clerk

09:12:52 Vera Pederson, Sweet Grass County Clerk
09:13:51 Connor Fitzpatrick, Lewis & Clark County Election Administrator
09:17:30 Bradley Seaman, Missoula County Elections Administrator

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:23:24 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders, MACR

Questions from Committee:

09:20:34 Rep. Gary Parry
09:22:57 Rep. Tony Brockman
09:26:32 Rep. Denise Baum
09:28:24 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
09:29:22 Rep. Gary Parry
09:31:25 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

Closing Statement:

09:33:04 Chair Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, closed the hearing on HB 536.

HEARING ON HB 540 - Eliminate certain gender/sex requirements for party committee representatives

Opening Statement:

09:34:02 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 540, Eliminate certain gender/sex requirements for party committee representatives.

Proponent Testimony:

09:35:41 Julia Shaida, Gallatin County Democrats

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:37:36 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

Closing Statement:

09:40:12 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 540.

HEARING ON HB 577 - Revise laws related to filing of certain campaign finance reports

Opening Statement:

09:41:42 Rep. Jim Hamilton (D), HD 61, opened the hearing on HB 577, Revise laws related to filing of certain campaign finance reports.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230222STHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230222STHa3\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:53:19 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

09:54:31 Rep. Gary Parry

09:55:32 Rep. Michael Yakawich

09:58:17 Rep. Linda Reksten

Closing Statement:

10:00:16 Rep. Jim Hamilton (D), HD 61, closed the hearing on HB 577.

HEARING ON HB 712 - Prohibit illegal aliens from voting in Montana elections

Opening Statement:

10:01:24 Rep. Zack Wirth (R), HD 80, opened the hearing on HB 712, Prohibit illegal aliens from voting in Montana elections.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:04:21 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana, MT ACLU

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:09:00 Rep. Linda Reksten

10:10:23 Rep. Ed Stafman

10:11:57 Rep. Gary Parry

10:13:44 Rep. Tony Brockman

Closing Statement:

10:15:25 Rep. Zack Wirth (R), HD 80, closed the hearing on HB 712.

HEARING ON HB 716 - Revise laws related to deceptive election practices

Opening Statement:

10:17:26 Vice Chair Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB 716, Revise laws related to deceptive election practices.

Discussion:

10:16:28 Vice Chair Kortum assumed the Chair

[EXHIBIT\(230222STHa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:20:14 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County Election Administrator

Questions from Committee:

10:19:49 Rep. Tony Brockman
10:23:58 Rep. Ed Stafman
10:28:06 Rep. Michael Yakawich
10:30:07 Rep. Denise Baum
10:34:46 Rep. Linda Reksten
10:37:10 Rebecca Power
10:37:41 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
10:40:06 Chair Julie Dooling
10:43:29 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum
10:46:52 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

10:48:43 Vice Chair Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, closed the hearing on HB 716.

10:50:31 Rep. Dooling assumed the Chair

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:52:30

Heather Kellum, Secretary

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