

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Llew Jones-R, on February 23, 2023 at 3:16 PM, in Room 102

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
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. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (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)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Matt Regier (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**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 669 02/21/2023  
SB 121 02/22/2023

Executive Action:

15:18:39 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.  
15:19:39 Chair Jones left the meeting. Vice Chair Keenan assumed the gavel.

**HEARING ON HB 669 - Revise laws related to allocation of marijuana tax revenues**

**Opening Statement:**

15:20:08 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 669, Revise laws related to allocation of marijuana tax revenues.  
15:20:31 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:28:59 Roger Hagan, Montana Department of the American Legion, something National Guard  
15:29:36 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.  
15:31:13 Chris Marshawn, Anaconda Sportsmen, Montana Wildlife Federation  
15:34:11 Jim Bjornemo, Anaconda Sportsmans Club  
15:34:44 Don Lepinsky, self  
15:36:11 Marisa Diaz-Waian, self  
15:37:14 Bob Walker, Montana Trails Coalition  
15:37:34 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy left the meeting.  
15:40:34 Jack Conyngham, self  
15:43:09 Gary Oldhouse, Anaconda Sportsmen's Club  
15:44:24 Jessica Bushnell, self  
15:45:34 Noah Marion, Wild Montana  
15:48:26 Kristi DuBois, self  
15:50:05 Christine Whitlatch, self

15:52:54 Doug Krings, self, Back Country Hunters and Anglers  
15:54:00 Mike Mershon, self  
15:54:22 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.  
15:54:53 Bert Lindler, self  
15:55:34 Rep. Hellegaard and Rep. Read left.  
15:56:19 Angie Grove, Montana State Parks Foundation

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:57:02 Rep. David Bedey  
15:57:45 Rep. Gillette left the meeting.  
15:58:37 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
16:00:27 Rep. Read joined the meeting.  
16:03:00 Rep. David Bedey  
16:03:26 Rep. Jerry Schillinger  
16:05:22 Rep. Bill Mercer  
16:07:45 Rep. Mike Hopkins  
16:08:58 Rep. Gillette left the meeting.  
16:10:42 Rep. Kerr Carpenter left the meeting.  
16:13:02 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
16:18:37 Rep. Gillette joined the meeting.  
16:21:21 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
16:23:33 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
16:26:46 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
16:27:58 Chris Mershawn, Anaconda Sportsmen

16:30:23 Rep. David Bedey  
16:33:28 Rep. Mary Caferro  
16:34:30 Noah Marion, Wild Montana  
16:37:35 Rep. Read left the meeting.  
16:39:23 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy  
16:42:02 Rep. John Fitzpatrick  
16:43:23 Chris Marshawn, Anaconda Sportsmen  
16:45:45 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.  
16:48:37 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

**Closing Statement:**

16:49:03 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 669.  
16:50:11 Rep. Mercer left the meeting.

**HEARING ON SB 121 - Reduce top marginal income tax rate and increase EITC**

**Opening Statement:**

16:53:13 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 121, Reduce top marginal income tax rate and increase EITC.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:55:38 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office  
[EXHIBIT\(230223APHb1\)](#)  
16:56:05 Rep. Caferro left the meeting.  
16:56:37 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTA)  
16:58:14 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association one more  
16:58:32 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Montana Stock Growers Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:59:33 Roseq Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

[EXHIBIT\(230223APHb2\)](#)

17:01:55 Rep. Jones joined the meeting.

17:03:06 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:05:42 Eric Dale, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:06:34 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:07:21 Sen. Becky Beard-R

17:09:35 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:09:54 Nicole Rolf, MFBF

17:11:29 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:11:50 Eric Dale, DOR

17:14:41 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

17:15:04 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office

17:15:29 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

17:16:00 Eric Dale, DOR

17:18:02 Quinn Holzer

17:18:30 Rep. Fiona Nave

17:19:34 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office

17:20:53 Rep. Llew Jones

17:21:55 Bob Story, MTA

17:24:28 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

17:25:59 Sen. Becky Beard-R

17:27:40 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

17:28:31 Rep. Moore left the meeting.  
17:28:32 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office  
17:30:40 Rep. Paul Tuss  
17:31:38 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office  
17:33:48 Rep. John Fitzpatrick  
17:33:49 Rep. Windy Boy left the meeting.  
17:34:30 Eric Dale, DOR  
17:35:39 Rep. John Fitzpatrick  
17:36:36 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office  
17:38:50 Rep. Connie Keogh  
17:39:36 Sen. Becky Beard-R  
17:41:28 Rep. David Bedey

**Closing Statement:**

17:43:02 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 121.  
  
17:45:55 Rep. Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:47:30

---

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230223APHbad\)](#)