

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

Call to Order: Chair Bob Phalen-R, on February 23, 2023 at 8:03 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. 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. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (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 510 02/14/2023

HB 528 02/15/2023

HB 602 02/21/2023

HB 608 02/21/2023

HB 653 02/21/2023

Executive Action:

HB 511 TO TABLE
HB 529 DO PASS
HB 536 DO PASS
HB 540 DO PASS
HB 577 DO PASS
HB 712 DO PASS
HB 716 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 510 DO PASS
HB 528 TO TABLE
HB 602 TO TABLE
HB 653 DO PASS
HB 608 TO TABLE

08:03:40 Vice Chair Phalen assumed the Chair.

HEARING ON HB 510 - Revise certification timeline laws for city candidates

Opening Statement:

08:05:11 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 510, Revise certification timeline laws for city candidates.

Proponent Testimony:

08:06:00 Scott Cook, Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices

[EXHIBIT\(230223STHa1\)](#)

08:08:24 Jeff Mangan, Private Citizen

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:09:28 Rep. Michael Yakawich

Closing Statement:

08:11:44 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, closed the hearing on HB 510.

08:12:09 Rep. Yakawich has left

08:13:18 Rep. Frazer has arrived

08:15:51 Rep. Baum has arrived

HEARING ON HB 528 - Generally revise election laws

Opening Statement:

08:12:33 Rep. Laurie Bishop (D), HD 60, opened the hearing on HB 528, Generally revise election laws.

Proponent Testimony:

08:16:28 Robyn Morrison, Members of the League of Women Votes

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:18:35 Chris Gallus, Commissioner of Political Practices, COPP

Questions from Committee:

08:19:12 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

08:20:20 Rep. Linda Reksten

08:24:40 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

Closing Statement:

08:26:49 Rep. Laurie Bishop (D), HD 60, closed the hearing on HB 528.

08:50:14 Rep. Brockman has left

HEARING ON HB 602 - Revise laws relating to state contracts with Chinese manufacturers

Opening Statement:

08:30:43 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 602, Revise laws relating to state contracts with Chinese manufacturers.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230223STHa2\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:34:08 Michele Snowberger, Attorney, Department of Administration, DOA
08:34:32 Megan Holmland, State Procurement Officer, Department of Administration

Questions from Committee:

08:35:06 Rep. Ed Stafman
08:38:07 Rep. Gary Parry
08:39:32 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
08:44:00 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum
08:46:18 Rep. Linda Reksten
08:47:43 Rep. Denise Baum
08:48:42 Rep. Gary Parry
08:50:10 Rep. Ed Stafman

Closing Statement:

08:54:17 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 602.

HEARING ON HB 653 - Allowing reimbursement to county officers and employees for out of state travel

Opening Statement:

08:58:05 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, opened the hearing on HB 653, Allowing reimbursement to county officers and employees for out of state travel.

Proponent Testimony:

08:59:14 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Sheriff and Peace Officers' Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

09:01:05 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, closed the hearing on HB 653.

09:21:09 Rep. Brockman has arrived

09:41:31 Rep. Yakawich has arrived

HEARING ON HB 608 - Revise laws related to boycotts of Israel and state investments

Opening Statement:

09:01:44 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 608, Revise laws related to boycotts of Israel and state investments.

Proponent Testimony:

09:05:57 Edward Brown, Private Citizen

[EXHIBIT\(230223STHa3\)](#)

09:10:12 Jeff Lazloffy, Private Citizen

09:14:01 Jerry Weissman, Private Citizen

09:19:24 Rabbi Shaul Shkedi, Private Citizen

09:21:37 Carly Gammill, Director, Stand With Us

09:24:20 Marc Greendorfer, Private Citizen

09:29:22 Rabbi Chaim Bruk, Private Citizen

Opponent Testimony:

09:32:26 Keegan Medrano, Montana American Civil Liberties Union, MT ACLU

09:38:24 Dan Villa, Executive Director of Board of Investments, Department of Commerce, DOC

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:41:37 Rep. Michael Yakawich
09:43:37 Rep. Tony Brockman
09:45:46 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
09:47:32 Rep. Ed Stafman
09:50:03 Rep. Denise Baum
09:54:01 Rep. Linda Reksten
09:55:02 Vice Chair Bob Phalen
09:55:13 Rep. Linda Reksten
09:55:56 Rep. Michael Yakawich
09:59:42 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

10:01:53 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, closed the hearing on HB 608.

10:04:55 **Recessed**

10:49:01 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 511 - Revising candidate self-finance laws

10:49:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 511 DO PASS.**
09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion tied 9 - 9 by voice vote
10:50:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 511 TO TABLE.**
09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

10:51:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 529 DO PASS.**
09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 536 - Revise laws related to write-in candidates

10:52:37 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 536 DO PASS.**

09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

10:53:40 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 540 DO PASS.**

09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

10:54:53 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 577 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:55:05 Rep. Ed Stafman

09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Green, Rep. Phalen, voting no.
Rep. Green, By Proxy

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

10:57:21 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 712 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:57:51 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

10:58:59 Rep. Frank Smith

09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 8 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Frazer, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 716 - Revise laws related to deceptive election practices

11:00:44 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 716 DO PASS.**

11:01:12 **Motion:** Rep. Kenneth Walsh moved that **HB 716 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:01:32 Rebecca Power

- 11:02:10 Rep. Ed Stafman
- 11:03:37 Rep. Denise Baum
- 11:04:54 Rep. Linda Reksten
- 11:05:38 Rebecca Power
- 11:05:59 Vice Chair Bob Phalen
- 11:06:09 Rep. Linda Reksten
- 11:06:30 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:08:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 716 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 11:08:34 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum
- 11:09:12 Rep. Linda Reksten
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 510 - Revise certification timeline laws for city candidates

- 11:10:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 510 DO PASS.**
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 528 - Generally revise election laws

- 11:11:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 528 DO PASS.**
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion failed 11 - 7 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Dooling, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, voting yes.
Rep. Dooling, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy
- 11:12:52 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 528 TO TABLE.**
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 602 - Revise laws relating to state contracts with Chinese manufacturers

- 11:13:47 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 602 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 11:14:14 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum
- 11:14:54 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
- 11:16:15 Rep. Frank Smith
- 11:16:58 **Substitute Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 602 TO TABLE.**
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 15 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Green, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Yakawich, voting no.
Rep. Green, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 653 - Allowing reimbursement to county officers and employees for out of state travel

- 11:18:30 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 653 DO PASS.**
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 608 - Revise laws related to boycotts of Israel and state investments

- 11:19:25 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 608 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 11:19:45 Rep. Ed Stafman
- 11:24:31 **Substitute Motion:** Vice Chair Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 608 TO TABLE.**
- 09:04:45 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 14 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Green, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Yakawich, voting no.
Rep. Green, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:26:48

Heather Kellum, Secretary

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