

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Llew Jones-R, on February 24, 2023 at 9:06 AM, 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. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)  
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Terry Moore (R)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Rep. Matt Regier (R)  
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Terry Falk (R)  
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)  
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)  
Rep. Joe Read (R)  
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)  
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 722 02/22/2023  
SB 124 02/23/2023

Executive Action:

HB 119 TO TABLE  
HB 55 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 276 DO PASS  
HB 332 TO TABLE

**HEARING ON SB 124 - Revise corporate income tax apportionment**

**Opening Statement:**

09:07:20 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 124, Revise corporate income tax apportionment.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230224APHa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:15:52 Derek Bell, Administrator, Business and Income Tax Division, Department of Revenue (DOR), Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230224APHa2\)](#)

09:17:22 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTA)

09:17:58 Steve Wade, BNSF Railway

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:18:55 Finn McMichael, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:19:18 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

09:19:42 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

09:20:18 Derek Bell, DOR

09:21:29 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:22:00 Steve Wade, BNSF

09:22:53 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:23:05 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

09:24:06 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:24:55 Derek Bell, DOR

09:27:27 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
09:27:42 Finn McMichael, DOR  
09:31:11 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:33:39 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

**Closing Statement:**

09:34:43 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, closed the hearing on SB 124.

**HEARING ON HB 722 - Generally revise district courts budget presentation in budget**

**Opening Statement:**

09:34:53 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 722, Generally revise district courts budget presentation in budget.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:37:35 Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator, Judicial Branch  
09:45:59 Amy Sassano, Director, Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:10:01 Rep. Keogh, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.  
09:13:38 Rep. Gillette and Rep. Falk joined the meeting.  
09:22:32 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.  
09:24:54 Rep. Tuss and Rep. Regier joined the meeting.  
09:34:58 Rep. Windy Boy and Rep. Read joined the meeting.  
09:47:29 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

09:47:39 Rep. Llew Jones  
09:48:50 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
09:49:08 Beth McLaughlin, Judicial Branch  
09:49:31 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:50:31 Rep. David Bedey  
09:51:39 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:55:00 Rep. David Bedey  
09:55:32 Rep. Llew Jones  
09:56:30 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:57:16 Amy Sassano, OBPP  
09:59:01 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:59:44 Beth McLaughlin, Judicial Branch  
10:01:30 Rep. Read left the meeting.  
10:02:51 Rep. Bill Mercer

**Closing Statement:**

10:05:50 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, closed the hearing on HB 722.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 119 - Provide funding for public safety pension systems**

10:29:57 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 119 DO PASS.**  
10:29:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
10:30:41 **Motion:** Rep. Terry Moore moved that **HB 119 TO TABLE.**  
10:30:41 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 55 - An act establishing a tax on electric vehicle charging stations**

10:30:57 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 55 DO PASS.**

10:31:03 **Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 55 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

10:06:25 Rep. Bedey and Moore left the meeting.

10:07:02 Recessed

10:12:34 Reconvened

10:41:50 Rep Read joined the meeting.

10:47:54 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

10:48:13 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

10:48:42 Rep. Bob Keenan

10:50:09 Rep. Mike Hopkins

10:50:27 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

10:53:12 Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:53:33 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

10:54:31 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

10:31:03 **Vote:** Motion carried 21 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Keenan, Rep. Regier, voting no.

10:57:56 **Motion:** Rep. Llew Jones moved that **HB 55 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:00:42 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:01:13 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:01:59 Rep. Llew Jones

11:02:16 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

10:57:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 20 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Regier, voting no.  
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

11:03:30 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 55 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:03:42 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:03:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 276 - Establish a farm to food bank grant program**

11:04:53 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 276 DO PASS.**

11:05:31 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 276 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:05:55 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:06:51 Rep. David Bedey

11:07:07 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

11:05:31 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting yes.  
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

11:08:45 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 276 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:08:57 Rep. Mary Caferro

11:09:18 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:10:54 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

11:11:32 Rep. Jane Gillette

11:12:26 Rep. David Bedey

11:13:19 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

11:14:27 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:15:15 Rep. Jane Gillette

11:08:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.  
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 332 - Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits**

11:17:03 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 332 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

- 11:17:09 Rep. David Bedey
- 11:20:51 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 11:22:06 Rep. Terry Moore
- 11:23:31 Rep. Jane Gillette
- 11:27:00 Vice Chair Caferro and Rep. Falk left the meeting.
- 11:28:21 Rep. Llew Jones
- 11:33:36 Rep. David Bedey
- 11:17:03 **Vote:** Motion failed 13 - 10 by roll call vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting yes.
- 11:36:42 **Motion:** Rep. Llew Jones moved that **HB 332 TO TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

- 11:37:20 Chair Jones
- 11:36:42 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 10 by roll call vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:40:56

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Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230224APHaad\)](#)