

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

Call to Order: Chair Caleb Hinkle-R, on February 27, 2023 at 11:01 AM, in 472

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Caleb Hinkle, Chair (R)
Rep. Lee Deming, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Amy Regier (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Staff Present: Joe Kolman, Research Analyst
Katie Reeves, 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 701 02/22/2023
HB 714 02/22/2023
HB 739 02/23/2023
HB 755 02/23/2023

Executive Action:

HB 626 TO TABLE
HB 607 TO TABLE
HB 701 TO TABLE

HEARING ON HB 701 - Revise legislator ethics laws regarding pecuniary interests

Opening Statement:

11:02:40 Vice Chair Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 701, Revise legislator ethics laws regarding pecuniary interests.

Discussion:

11:04:40 Rep. Tony Brockman left the meeting.

11:04:44 Rep. Jonathan Karlen left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

11:06:46 Vice Chair Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 701.

HEARING ON HB 755 - Provide for PSC appointments

Opening Statement:

11:07:43 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 755, Provide for PSC appointments.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230227LEHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

11:13:22 Robin Arnold
11:13:33 Rep. Marilyn Marler joined the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:16:03 Rep. Greg Kmetz
11:16:29 Rep. Dave Fern-D
11:19:18 Rep. Paul Tuss
11:19:35 Rep. Kenneth Walsh joined the meeting.
11:19:47 Rep. Dave Fern-D
11:23:32 Rep. Terry Falk
11:23:41 Rep. Dave Fern-D

Closing Statement:

11:31:34 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 755.

HEARING ON HB 739 - Provide exception for agency adoption of administrative rules

Opening Statement:

11:32:51 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 739, Provide exception for agency adoption of administrative rules.

Proponent Testimony:

11:37:17 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

11:38:36 Quinlan O'Connor
11:40:04 Angie Colamaria, DEQ Legal Counsel

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

11:41:55 Don Harris, Dept of Administration, Legal Counsel

[EXHIBIT\(230227LEHa2\)](#)

Questions from Committee:

11:42:36 Vice Chair Ed Stafman
11:43:28 Rep. Bill Mercer-R
11:47:45 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
11:48:04 Kristen Juras
11:49:25 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
11:49:32 Joe Kolman

Closing Statement:

11:49:44 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 739.

HEARING ON HB 714 - Revise laws related to fiscal notes

Opening Statement:

11:50:05 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 714, Revise laws related to fiscal notes.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230227LEHa3\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:56:09 Rep. Paul Tuss
11:57:37 Rep. Bill Mercer-R
11:57:51 Rep. Terry Falk
11:58:05 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

Closing Statement:

11:59:31 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 714.

Discussion:

12:22:51 Rep. Paul Green left the meeting.
12:22:57 Rep. Terry Falk left the meeting.
12:23:04 Rep. Jonathan Karlen left the meeting.

12:01:02 **Recessed**

12:26:59 Rep. Green has arrived

12:27:19 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 626 - Revise election laws related to appointment process
for legislative vacancy**

12:27:44 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 626 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

12:28:15 Vice Chair Ed Stafman
12:28:24 Rep. Tony Brockman joined the meeting.
12:28:38 Rep. Marilyn Marler joined the meeting.

- 12:28:46 Rep. Kenneth Walsh joined the meeting.
- 12:29:11 Rep. Gary Parry joined the meeting.
- 12:29:56 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 626 BE AMENDED.**
- 12:29:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Romano, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Tuss, voting no.
Rep. Karlen, By Proxy
- 12:31:54 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 626 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 12:32:02 Rep. Paul Tuss
- 12:33:00 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
- 12:34:02 Rep. Paul Green
- 12:34:44 Rep. Greg Kmetz
- 12:35:06 Vice Chair Ed Stafman
- 12:31:54 **Vote:** Motion failed 10 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Falk, Rep. Gist, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Kmetz, Rep. Regier, voting yes.
Rep. Falk, Rep. Gist, Rep. Regier, By Proxy
- 12:37:06 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 626 TO TABLE.**
- 12:37:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 607 - Revise legislative oversight of administrative rules

- 12:37:21 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 607 DO PASS.**
- 12:37:25 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 607 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 12:38:07 Vice Chair Ed Stafman
- 12:37:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 12:42:15 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 607 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 12:42:33 Rep. Paul Tuss
- 12:42:15 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Regier, Rep. Stafman, voting yes.
Rep. Karlen, Rep. Regier, By Proxy
- 12:44:11 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 607 TO TABLE.**

12:44:11 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 701 - Revise legislator ethics laws regarding pecuniary interests

12:44:18 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 701 DO PASS.**

12:44:23 **Motion:** Rep. Ed Stafman moved that **HB 701 BE AMENDED.**

12:44:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Gist, Rep. Green, voting no.
Rep. Gist, By Proxy

12:47:46 **Motion:** Rep. Lee Deming moved that **HB 701 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

12:47:46 **Vote:** Motion failed 11 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Romano, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Tuss, voting yes.
Rep. Marler, By Proxy

12:53:17 **Motion:** Rep. Caleb Hinkle moved that **HB 701 TO TABLE.**

12:53:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:50:41

Katie Reeves, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230227LEHaad\)](#)