

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Julie Dooling-R, on February 27, 2023 at 7:02 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. Paul Green (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. 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 598 02/21/2023
HB 599 02/21/2023
HB 696 02/22/2023
HB 698 02/22/2023
HB 733 02/23/2023
HB 754 02/23/2023

HB 756 02/23/2023
HB 760 02/23/2023
HB 766 02/23/2023
HR 3 02/23/2023

Executive Action:

HB 733 DO PASS
HR 3 DO PASS
HB 766 DO PASS
HB 696 TO TABLE
HB 698 TO TABLE
HB 598 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 599 TO TABLE
HB 754 DO PASS
HB 760 TO TABLE
HB 756 TO TABLE
HB 583 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 387 DO PASS

HEARING ON HB 733 - Revise laws related to disposal of surplus campaign funds

Opening Statement:

07:04:11 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 733, Revise laws related to disposal of surplus campaign funds.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

07:06:27 Rep. Ed Stafman

07:07:32 Rep. Denise Baum

Closing Statement:

07:10:10 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 733.

HEARING ON HR 3 - Resolution to acknowledge service of Vietnam veterans

Opening Statement:

07:11:55 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HR 3, Resolution to acknowledge service of Vietnam veterans.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

07:14:06 Rep. Tony Brockman
07:15:34 Rep. Bob Phalen
07:15:57 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

Closing Statement:

07:16:53 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HR 3.

HEARING ON HB 756 - Provide for automatic voter registration with opt out

Opening Statement:

07:18:42 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 756, Provide for automatic voter registration with opt out.

Proponent Testimony:

07:25:36 Ta'jin Perez, Deputy Director, Western Native Voice
07:28:10 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters of Montana

Opponent Testimony:

07:29:51 Austin James, Secretary of State
[EXHIBIT\(230227STHa1\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230227STHa2\)](#)
07:32:25 Mary Tapper, Private Citizen
07:33:49 Becky Stockton, Chief Election Judge, Private Citizen
07:35:01 Pamela Raney, Private Citizen
07:35:41 Laurie Bakri, Motor Vehicle Administrator, DMV

07:36:31 Lisa Bennett, Private Citizen

Informational Witness Testimony:

07:38:57 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

Questions from Committee:

07:39:21 Rep. Gary Parry

07:40:09 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

07:40:59 Rep. Frank Smith

07:42:05 Rep. Bob Phalen

07:44:10 Rep. Kelly Kortum

Closing Statement:

07:45:50 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 756.

HEARING ON HB 766 - Revise laws related to human trafficking

Opening Statement:

07:51:30 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 766, Revise laws related to human trafficking.

Proponent Testimony:

07:55:51 Diane Yarus, Soroptimist International

07:58:44 Bonnie Baker, Chair of Human Trafficking Committee, Soroptimist International

08:00:07 Stewart Doggett, Montana Lodge and Hospitality Association

08:01:44 Becky Stockton, Private Citizen

Opponent Testimony:

08:02:35 Alan Doane, Department of Justice

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:04:03 Rep. Bob Phalen
08:05:03 Rep. Gary Parry
08:05:56 Rep. Tony Brockman
08:07:37 Rep. Linda Reksten
08:12:21 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
08:12:47 Rep. Michael Yakawich
08:14:29 Rep. Julie Dooling
08:15:43 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf
08:18:22 Rep. Julie Dooling

Closing Statement:

08:18:46 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 766.

HEARING ON HB 696 - Revise Montana Information Technology Act exemptions

Opening Statement:

08:23:45 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 696, Revise Montana Information Technology Act exemptions.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

08:28:08 Will Selph, Montana Department of Justice

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:30:54 Rep. Ed Stafman
08:34:22 Rep. Kelly Kortum

08:35:27 Rep. Gary Parry
08:36:29 Rep. Tony Brockman
08:42:07 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
08:43:47 Rep. Bob Phalen
08:46:19 Rep. Gary Parry
08:47:49 Rep. Denise Baum
08:48:59 Rep. Tony Brockman

Closing Statement:

08:54:15 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 696.

HEARING ON HB 698 - Generally revise laws related to exclusive representatives of public employees

Opening Statement:

09:10:30 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 698, Generally revise laws related to exclusive representatives of public employees.

Proponent Testimony:

09:13:35 Maxford Nelsen, Director of Labor Policy, Freedom Foundation`

[EXHIBIT\(230227STHa3\)](#)

09:15:51 Adam Reed, Private Citizen

09:18:11 Dan Waldo, Private Citizen

Opponent Testimony:

09:20:46 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

09:22:55 Quint Nyman, Montana Federation Public Employees

[EXHIBIT\(230227STHa4\)](#)

09:25:05 Nate McConnell, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

09:25:37 Al Ekblad, Operating Engineers Local 400

09:27:49 Carter Marsh, Montana State Firemen's Association

09:29:18 Adam Haight, Labors Local 1686

09:31:29 Morgan Smith, Montana Federation of Public Employees

09:31:52 Erin Foley, Teamsters Local 2

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:33:45 Rep. Kelly Kortum

09:35:32 Rep. Denise Baum

09:37:56 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

09:38:48 Rep. Gregory Frazer

09:41:14 Rep. Bob Phalen

Closing Statement:

09:42:59 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 698.

HEARING ON HB 598 - Prohibit use of ranked-choice voting methods

Opening Statement:

09:45:29 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 598, Prohibit use of ranked-choice voting methods.

Discussion:

07:20:17 Rep. Frazer has arrived

08:05:15 Rep. Sprunger has left

08:23:31 Rep. Bertoglio has left

08:37:26 Rep. Sprunger has arrived
08:57:30 Recessed
09:10:21 Reconvened
[EXHIBIT\(230227STHa6\)](#)
09:59:24 Rep. Running Wolf has left
10:31:33 Rep. Wirth has left
10:42:59 Rep. Bertoglio has arrived
11:00:12 Rep. Wirth has arrived
11:10:04 Rep. Green has left
11:14:12 Recessed
11:47:24 Rep. Walsh has left
11:47:47 Reconvened

Proponent Testimony:

09:48:28 Austin James, Secretary of State
09:49:49 Becky Stockton, Private Citizen
[EXHIBIT\(230227STHa5\)](#)
09:51:18 Lisa Bennett, Private Citizen
09:53:20 Madeline Malisa, Opportunities Solution
09:55:41 Jason Snead, Honest Elections Project

Opponent Testimony:

09:57:58 Eric Buhler, RCV Montana
09:59:56 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice
10:01:29 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana
10:03:41 Paul Pacini, Private Citizen
10:05:55 Donald Jacque, Private Citizen

10:07:52 Melinda Leas, Private Citizen
10:09:18 Sherry Meador, Private Citizen
10:10:14 Joshua Daniels, Private Citizen
10:11:32 Sam Orr, Private Citizen

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:12:37 Rep. Kelly Kortum
10:13:21 Rep. Ed Stafman
10:15:02 Rep. Tony Brockman
10:17:28 Rep. Gary Parry
10:19:10 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
10:20:16 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
10:21:09 Rep. Denise Baum

Closing Statement:

10:22:39 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 598.

HEARING ON HB 599 - Revise election laws related to active and inactive voter lists

Opening Statement:

10:24:33 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 599, Revise election laws related to active and inactive voter lists.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:27:03 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice

10:28:28 Jenniferer Hensley, County of Missoula
10:30:47 Evan Preston, Secure Democracy USA
10:32:13 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders
10:33:18 Kiersten Iwai, Forward Montana
10:34:57 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union Montana

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:35:26 Rep. Tony Brockman
10:36:51 Rep. Linda Reksten
10:38:06 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

Closing Statement:

10:40:37 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 599.

HEARING ON HB 754 - Allowing county election officials access to certain information

Opening Statement:

10:43:22 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 754, Allowing county election officials access to certain information.

Proponent Testimony:

10:45:10 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:45:44 Laurie Bakri, Motor Vehicle Administrator, DMV
10:46:13 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

Questions from Committee:

10:46:36 Rep. Ed Stafman
10:48:08 Rep. Kelly Kortum
10:48:49 Rep. Linda Reksten
10:50:47 Rep. Tony Brockman
10:50:51 Rep. Michael Yakawich
10:52:08 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

Closing Statement:

10:54:35 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 754.

HEARING ON HB 760 - Revise laws related to foreign media corporations

Opening Statement:

10:55:42 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB 760, Revise laws related to foreign media corporations.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:59:08 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasting Association

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:01:45 Rep. Linda Reksten
11:04:40 Rep. Tony Brockman
11:05:54 Rep. Denise Baum

Closing Statement:

11:08:24 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, closed the hearing on HB 760.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 733 - Revise laws related to disposal of surplus campaign funds

11:48:00 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 733 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:48:21 Rep. Kelly Kortum

11:48:40 Rep. Linda Reksten

11:48:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 7 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Stafman, Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HR 3 - Resolution to acknowledge service of Vietnam veterans

11:50:25 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HR 3 DO PASS.**

11:50:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 766 - Revise laws related to human trafficking

11:51:25 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 766 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:52:06 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

11:52:09 Rep. Denise Baum

11:52:53 Rep. Bob Phalen

11:53:07 Rep. Julie Dooling

11:51:25 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 696 - Revise Montana Information Technology Act exemptions

11:54:13 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 696 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 11:54:39 Rep. Kelly Kortum
- 11:55:17 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Courtenay Sprunger moved that **HB 696 TO TABLE.**
- 11:55:17 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 15 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Kortum, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 698 - Generally revise laws related to exclusive representatives of public employees

- 11:56:10 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 698 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 11:56:39 Rep. Gregory Frazer
- 11:56:10 **Vote:** Motion failed 14 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Dooling, Rep. Green, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Wirth, voting yes.
- 11:58:44 **Motion:** Rep. Gregory Frazer moved that **HB 698 TO TABLE.**
- 11:58:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 598 - Prohibit use of ranked-choice voting methods

- 11:59:20 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 598 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 11:59:34 Rep. Bob Phalen
- 11:59:48 Rep. Kelly Kortum
- 11:59:20 **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. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy
- 12:05:25 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 598 REOPEN.**
- 12:05:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 12:05:44 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 598 BE AMENDED.**

12:05:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

12:07:18 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 598 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

12:07:31 Rep. Kelly Kortum

12:07:41 Rep. Bob Phalen

12:07:18 **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. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 599 - Revise election laws related to active and inactive voter lists

12:01:26 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 599 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

12:01:45 Rep. Bob Phalen

12:02:03 Rep. Ed Stafman

12:02:57 Rebecca Power

12:03:20 Rep. Linda Reksten

12:03:54 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Tyson Running Wolf moved that **HB 599 TO TABLE.**

12:03:54 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, Rep. Wirth, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 754 - Allowing county election officials access to certain information

12:09:06 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 754 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

12:09:31 Rep. Kelly Kortum

12:09:06 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 760 - Revise laws related to foreign media corporations

12:11:45 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 760 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

12:11:54 Rep. Frank Smith

12:11:58 Rep. Linda Reksten

12:12:20 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 760 TO TABLE.**

12:12:20 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, Rep. Wirth, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 756 - Provide for automatic voter registration with opt out

12:13:01 **Motion:** Rep. Ed Stafman moved that **HB 756 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

12:13:13 Rep. Ed Stafman

12:17:10 Rep. Paul Green

12:17:15 Rep. Linda Reksten

12:17:48 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 756 TO TABLE.**

12:17:48 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 12 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 583 - Revise occupations and education laws for military license reciprocity

12:19:25 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 583 DO PASS.**

12:19:44 **Motion:** Rep. Tony Brockman moved that **HB 583 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

12:20:17 Rebecca Power
12:21:10 Rep. Kelly Kortum
12:19:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
12:21:51 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 583 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
12:21:51 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 387 - Generally revise constituent accounts

12:22:37 **Motion:** Rep. Ed Stafman moved that **HB 387 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**
12:22:37 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
12:23:15 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 387 DO PASS.**
Discussion:
12:23:24 Rep. Ed Stafman
12:24:45 Rep. Kelly Kortum
12:23:15 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:28:00

Heather Kellum, Secretary

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

