

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Julie Dooling-R, on February 28, 2023 at 7:07 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. 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. 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 752 02/24/2023  
HB 774 02/24/2023  
HB 784 02/24/2023  
HB 794 02/24/2023  
HB 806 02/24/2023  
HB 807 02/24/2023

HB 812 02/24/2023  
HJ 14 02/24/2023

Executive Action:

HB 752 TO TABLE  
HB 774 DO PASS  
HB 784 TO TABLE  
HB 794 DO PASS  
HB 806 TO TABLE  
HJ 14 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 807 TO TABLE  
HB 812 TO TABLE

**HEARING ON HB 752 - Require the national anthem to be performed at sporting events**

**Opening Statement:**

07:08:18 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 752, Require the national anthem to be performed at sporting events.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

07:09:45 Rep. Tony Brockman

07:10:58 Rep. Ed Stafman

07:13:29 Rep. Gary Parry

**Closing Statement:**

07:13:41 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 752.

07:25:17 Rep. Frazer has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 774 - Generally revise election laws**

**Opening Statement:**

07:14:24 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 774, Generally revise election laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

07:19:49 Lance Melton, Montana School Board's Association  
07:21:59 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties  
07:23:29 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice  
07:24:52 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

07:26:48 Ken Bailey, Office of Public Instruction  
07:27:08 Kym Trujillo, Commissioner of Political Practices Offices

**Questions from Committee:**

07:28:29 Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
07:30:09 Rep. Michael Yakawich  
07:32:33 Rep. Linda Reksten  
07:34:27 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
07:37:01 Rep. Tony Brockman  
07:39:33 Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
07:40:29 Chair Julie Dooling

**Closing Statement:**

07:42:06 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 774.  
  
07:51:50 Rep. Green has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 784 - Revise laws related to school elections**

**Opening Statement:**

07:43:45 Rep. Fiona Nave (R), HD 57, opened the hearing on HB 784, Revise laws related to school elections.

**Proponent Testimony:**

07:46:35            Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent  
07:47:53            Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula  
07:48:45            Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

**Opponent Testimony:**

07:50:16            Lance Melton, Montana Coalition of Advocates

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

07:52:19            Nicole Thuotte, Office of Public Instruction

**Questions from Committee:**

07:52:46            Rep. Tyson Running Wolf  
07:55:05            Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
07:56:22            Vice Chair Bob Phalen

**Closing Statement:**

07:58:26            Rep. Fiona Nave (R), HD 57, closed the hearing on HB 784.

**HEARING ON HB 794 - Move the cowboy hall of fame back to Wolf Point**

**Opening Statement:**

07:59:13            Rep. Frank Smith (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 794, Move the cowboy hall of fame back to Wolf Point.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:03:42 Rep. Michael Yakawich  
08:07:55 Rep. Gary Parry  
08:08:20 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum  
08:08:59 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
08:11:18 Vice Chair Bob Phalen  
08:12:04 Rep. Tony Brockman  
08:13:26 Rep. Michael Yakawich  
08:14:30 Rep. Paul Green  
08:14:45 Rep. Gary Parry  
08:15:50 Rep. Denise Baum

**Closing Statement:**

08:16:33 Rep. Frank Smith (D), HD 16, closed the hearing on HB 794.

08:18:24 **Recessed**

08:32:39 **Reconvened**

08:35:51 Rep. Walsh has left

08:36:00 Rep. Running Wolf has left

**HEARING ON HB 806 - Revise requirements for absentee ballots**

**Opening Statement:**

08:34:23 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 806, Revise requirements for absentee ballots.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:37:17 Lisa Bennett, Private Citizen

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:39:42 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

08:41:20 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice  
08:42:54 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees  
08:44:20 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula  
08:46:15 Norane Appling-Freistadt, Private Citizen  
08:48:54 Margie MacDonald, Big Sky 55+  
08:50:02 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters  
08:51:50 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders  
08:52:59 Kiersten Iwai, Forward Montana

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:54:32 Vice Chair Bob Phalen  
08:57:50 Rep. Denise Baum  
09:00:46 Rep. Paul Green

**Closing Statement:**

09:02:19 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HB 806.  
09:06:25 Rep. Yakawich has left

**HEARING ON HJ 14 - Acknowledge service of Korean War veterans**

**Opening Statement:**

09:05:14 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HJ 14, Acknowledge service of Korean War veterans.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:10:36 Rep. Paul Green

09:12:13 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

**Closing Statement:**

09:12:59 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HJ 14.

**HEARING ON HB 807 - Generally revise election laws**

**Opening Statement:**

09:14:08 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 807, Generally revise election laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:17:01 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula

09:18:40 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

09:19:58 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice

09:21:40 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:23:28 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

09:25:29 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

09:25:50 Chair Julie Dooling

**Closing Statement:**

09:28:32 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 807.

09:35:16 Rep. Walsh has arrived

09:35:23 Rep. Yakawich has arrived

09:37:57 Rep. Parry has arrived

09:43:51 Rep. Running Wolf has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 812 - Revise election laws related to transcribed ballots**

**Opening Statement:**

09:30:11 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 812, Revise election laws related to transcribed ballots.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:31:12 Becky Stockton, Private Citizen

09:32:03 Lisa Bennett, Private Citizen

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:33:15 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula

09:35:50 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:37:51 Rep. Ed Stafman

09:38:29 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

09:39:30 Rep. Michael Yakawich

09:42:03 Chair Julie Dooling

09:43:40 Rep. Tony Brockman

09:44:47 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

**Closing Statement:**

09:46:42 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 812.

09:48:15 **Recessed**

10:28:31 Rep. Sprunger has arrived

10:44:33 **Recessed**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 752 - Require the national anthem to be performed at sporting events**

10:44:49 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 752 DO PASS.**

10:45:06 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 752 BE AMENDED.**

10:45:06 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Green, Rep. Kortum, voting no.

10:45:52 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 752 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

10:46:07 Rep. Ed Stafman

10:47:06 Rep. Paul Green

10:47:56 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

10:45:52 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Brockman, Rep. Parry, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Sprunger, Rep. Yakawich, voting yes.

10:49:34 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 752 TO TABLE.**

10:49:34 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 774 - Generally revise election laws**

10:50:06 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 774 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:50:21 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

10:51:03 Chair Julie Dooling

10:50:06 **Vote:** Motion tied 9 - 9 by voice vote

10:52:58 **Motion:** Rep. Gary Parry moved that **HB 774 TO TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

10:53:17 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

10:52:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Dooling, Rep. Phalen, voting no.

11:30:19 **Motion:** Rep. Tyson Running Wolf moved that **HB 774 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

11:30:19 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Stafman, voting no.

11:31:39 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 774 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:32:34 Chair Julie Dooling

11:32:37 Rep. Linda Reksten

11:33:00 Rep. Denise Baum

11:33:50 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:35:23 Rep. Tony Brockman

11:36:51 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

11:37:26 Rep. Denise Baum

11:37:52 Chair Julie Dooling

11:38:41 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

11:31:39 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no. Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 784 - Revise laws related to school elections**

10:54:44 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 784 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:55:11 Chair Julie Dooling

10:55:22 Rebecca Power

10:57:08 Rep. Linda Reksten

10:58:48 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

10:59:45 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

- 11:01:04 Rebecca Power
- 11:01:44 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 784 BE AMENDED.**
- 11:01:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:02:45 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 784 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 11:02:45 **Vote:** Motion tied 9 - 9 by voice vote
- 11:04:09 **Motion:** Rep. Gary Parry moved that **HB 784 TO TABLE.**
- 11:04:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 794 - Move the cowboy hall of fame back to Wolf Point**

- 11:04:45 **Motion:** Rep. Frank Smith moved that **HB 794 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**
- 11:05:09 Rep. Paul Green
- 11:05:40 Rep. Linda Reksten
- 11:06:04 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
- 11:04:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 7 by voice vote with Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Green, Rep. Parry, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Sprunger, Rep. Walsh, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 806 - Revise requirements for absentee ballots**

- 11:08:44 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 806 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**
- 11:09:13 Rep. Ed Stafman
- 11:09:52 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum
- 11:10:42 Chair Julie Dooling
- 11:08:44 **Vote:** Motion failed 17 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, voting yes.
- 11:11:49 **Motion:** Rep. Tyson Running Wolf moved that **HB 806 TO TABLE.**
- 11:11:49 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, voting no.
- 11:22:03 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 14 - Acknowledge service of Korean War veterans**

11:22:20 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HJ 14 DO PASS.**

11:22:56 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HJ 14 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:23:30 Rep. Tony Brockman

11:23:39 Rep. Gary Parry

11:22:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:24:23 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HJ 14 BE AMENDED.**

11:24:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:26:06 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HJ 14 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

11:26:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 807 - Generally revise election laws**

11:26:55 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 807 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:27:19 Rep. Paul Green

11:28:04 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Gary Parry moved that **HB 807 TO TABLE.**

11:28:04 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 17 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 812 - Revise election laws related to transcribed ballots**

11:28:35 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 812 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:29:01 Chair Julie Dooling

11:29:30 **Motion:** Rep. Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 812 TO TABLE.**

11:29:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Brockman, Rep. Phalen, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:41:41

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Heather Kellum, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230228STHaad\)](#)