

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 09, 2023 at 8:06 AM, in Room 102

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Bob Keenan, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. David Bedey (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (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 2 03/03/2023

Executive Action:

08:07:53	Chair Jones
09:10:22	Recessed
12:34:37	Recessed
13:08:40	Reconvened
15:56:55	Recessed
16:02:32	Reconvened
17:35:44	<u>Committee Discussion:</u> DOJ
17:37:18	Rep. Bill Mercer
17:42:34	Rep. Fiona Nave
17:43:53	Quinn Holzer
17:44:31	Will Selph, Chief of Staff, Department of Justice (DOJ)
17:48:34	David Ortley, Deputy Attorney General
17:49:22	EXHIBIT(230309APHa7)
17:53:57	Lieutenant Sager, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)
17:57:40	Brian Lockerby, Division of Criminal Investigation, Department of Justice (DOJ)
18:02:14	Mark Taylor, Association of Montana Troopers
18:03:19	Beth Brenneman, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Montana County Attorneys Association, Montana Association of Counties (MACo), Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)
18:04:30	Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited

18:05:08 Frank Garner, self

18:09:18 Natalia Bowser, Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

18:10:33 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

18:10:44 Natalia Bowser, MBCC

18:12:22 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

18:13:02 Lieutenant Sager, MHP

18:13:21 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

18:14:55 Brian Lockerby, DOJ

18:17:25 Rep. Terry Moore

18:17:51 Will Selph, DOJ

18:18:12 Lori Bakri, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD)

18:18:46 Rep. Terry Moore

18:22:03 Chair Llew Jones

18:22:05 Lori Bakri, MVD

18:23:36 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:24:30 Rep. Naarah Hastings

18:27:11 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:29:58 Rep. David Bedey

18:31:21 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:35:48 Rep. Jim Hamilton

18:36:14 Lieutenant Sager, MHP

18:38:07 Chair Llew Jones

18:40:12 Natalia Bowser, MBCC

17:37:03 Chair Jones assumed the gavel.

HEARING ON HB 2 - General Appropriations Act

Opening Statement:

08:15:58 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 2, General Appropriations Act.

Discussion:

08:18:47 Amy Carlson, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

08:22:43 Rep. Hastings joined the meeting.

08:23:33 Ryan Osmundson, Director, Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

Questions from Committee:

08:18:00 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:20:02 Mark Baker, CoreCivic

08:20:50 Rep. Jim Hamilton

08:21:21 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:24:47 Brian Gootkin, DOC

08:25:54 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

08:26:44 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:27:16 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:27:42 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

08:27:49 Section B - Chair Keenan

08:28:11 Chair Llew Jones

08:29:30 Rep. Fiona Nave

08:30:11 Brian Gootkin, DOC

08:31:38 Julie Johnson

08:32:14 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:32:30 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:33:35 Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:35:31 Chair Llew Jones

08:36:04 Brian Gootkin, DOC

08:36:17 Natalie Smitham, DOC

08:38:02 Chair Llew Jones

08:38:35 Mark Baker, CoreCivic

08:40:47 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:41:28 Chair Llew Jones

08:42:01 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:45:54 Brian Gootkin, DOC

08:51:08 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:51:30 Mark Baker, CoreCivic

08:52:41 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:53:22 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

08:53:28 Rep. Bill Mercer

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:54:00 Rep. Mercer, Department of Justice hearing

08:59:56 Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator, Judicial Branch

Questions from Committee:

08:58:41 Chair Keenan

09:01:36 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:01:46 Beth McLaughlin, DOJ

09:06:30 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:06:55 Beth McLaughlin, DOJ

09:08:10 Rep. Bill Mercer

Proponent Testimony:

09:35:39 Sydney Blair, Many Rivers Whole Health

09:37:36 Megan Bailey, National Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors, National Association of Social Workers

09:39:06 Patrick Maddison, Montana Association of Community Disability Services (MACDS)

09:40:25 Dan Krause, Boyd Andrew Community Services, Behavioral Health Alliances of Montana

09:41:30 Joshua Kendrick, CEO, Opportunity Resources Montana

09:42:47 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

09:43:23 Erin McGowan, HomeCare Montana, Association of Montana Public Health Officials, Human Resources Development Councils

09:46:47 Mitch Tropila, Easter Seals Goodwill Northern Rocky Mountain

09:48:26 Dennis Sulser, Youth Dynamics, Behavioral Health Alliance Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230309APHa1\)](#)

09:53:06 Margret MacDonald, Big Sky 55+

09:56:55 Carrie Krepps, Executive Director, Florence Crittenton Family Services

10:00:30 May Simmons, Prison Reform Advocate

10:04:36 Duane Preshinger, Montana Hospital Association, Post Acute Care Providers

10:05:28 Jean Branscum, CEO, Montana Medical Association (MMA)

[EXHIBIT\(230309APHa2\)](#)

10:09:00 Kristen Page-Nei, American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network

10:14:37 Ella Smith, Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness

10:15:23 Rose Hughes, MT Health Care Association (MHCA)

[EXHIBIT\(230309APHa3\)](#)

10:21:37 Tirza Asbell, Montana Women Vote

10:24:27 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

10:25:54 Liz Albers, American Heart Association

10:27:52 Melody Cunninham, self, Montana Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

10:29:20 Beth Brenneman, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

10:31:27 Matt Bugni, CEO, Aware Inc.

10:35:37 Shyla Patera, North Central Independent Living Services, self

10:38:29 Jacquie Helt, Montana State Director, SCIU 775

10:42:06 Mary Windecker, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana

10:43:27 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association

10:44:07 Levi Anderson, CEO, Western Montana Health Center

10:45:14 Tom Livers, Shodair Children's Hospital

10:48:02 Mandy Jo Anderson, HomeCare Montana

10:49:28 Stephanie Morton, Director, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Montana Coalition

10:52:25 Tyson Shumacher, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch

Questions from Committee:

10:53:44 Rep. Matt Regier

10:54:11 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

10:54:21 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

10:54:36 Gene Hermanson, Medicaid

10:57:08 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

10:57:25 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

11:00:12	Rep. Matt Regier
11:00:49	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:02:15	Rep. David Bedey
11:03:10	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:03:28	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
11:04:22	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:05:18	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
11:05:38	Jean Branscum, MMA
11:06:16	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:07:19	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
11:07:59	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:08:26	Rep. Matt Regier
11:08:37	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:10:59	Rep. Bill Mercer
11:11:21	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:11:35	Josh Poulette, LFD
11:12:25	Rep. Bill Mercer
11:14:32	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:17:35	Chair Llew Jones
11:17:36	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:18:21	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:19:03	Rep. Bill Mercer
11:20:15	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:28:42	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid

11:29:56	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:31:43	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
11:33:16	Josh Poulette, LFD
11:34:56	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
11:35:40	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:35:50	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:36:04	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
11:36:41	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:39:49	Gene Hermanson, Medicaid
11:40:36	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
11:41:00	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:41:52	Rep. Jim Hamilton
11:43:31	Rose Hughes, MHCA
11:51:47	Rep. Jim Hamilton
11:53:26	Matt Bugni, Aware Inc.
11:55:43	Rep. Jane Gillette
11:56:15	Josh Poulette, LFD
12:05:30	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
12:06:05	Mary LeMieux, DPHHS
12:06:16	Rep. Jane Gillette
12:08:22	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
12:08:59	Rebecca De Camara, Developmental Services Division, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
12:09:36	Rep. Jane Gillette
12:10:05	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

12:11:10 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

12:13:28 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

12:14:55 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

12:15:05 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

12:16:37 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

12:17:15 Rep. Paul Tuss

12:18:54 Rose Hughes, MHCA

12:21:40 Rep. Connie Keogh

12:22:33 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

12:22:51 Kim Aiken, Chief Information Officer, DPHHS

12:24:26 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

12:24:42 Josh Poulette, LFD

12:25:30 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

12:26:19 Josh Poulette, LFD

12:30:59 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

12:32:05 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

12:33:08 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

12:33:24 Rebecca De Camara, DPHHS

13:09:04 Chair Jones

13:11:40 Mike Randall, DPHHS

13:13:49 Chair Llew Jones

13:15:31 Rep. Fiona Nave

13:15:46 Mike Randall, DPHHS

13:17:24 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

13:19:44 Mike Randall, DPHHS

13:19:49 Rep. Jim Hamilton

13:19:54 Mike Randall, DPHHS

Proponent Testimony:

13:49:40 June Guenzler-Hermanson, Montana Association for Rehabilitation

13:53:22 May Simmons, self

13:56:47 Jackie Mohler, Executive Director, Family Outreach

13:59:08 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

14:00:35 Ella Smith, Montana Advocates for Children (MAC)

14:03:45 Kristin Page-Nei, American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network

[EXHIBIT\(230309APHa4\)](#)

14:09:46 Liz Albers, American Heart Association (AHA)

14:12:12 Jean Branscum, CEO, Montana Medical Association (MMA)

[EXHIBIT\(230309APHa5\)](#)

14:13:26 Shyla Patera, North Central Independent Living, self

14:17:07 Lauren Wilson, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

14:18:50 Stephanie Morton, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies

Questions from Committee:

13:24:33 Section B Continued

14:20:55 Rep. Jane Gillette

14:22:57 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

14:24:14 Erica Johnston, Director, Human Services, DPHHS

14:26:06 Rep. Jane Gillette

14:30:59 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

14:31:58 Josh Poulette, LFD

14:34:15 Rep. Paul Tuss

14:36:13 Rep. Fiona Nave

14:37:14 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

14:41:18 William Evo, DPHHS

14:44:33 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

14:45:22 Rep. Connie Keogh

14:46:51 Josh Poulette, LFD

14:47:59 Rep. Jane Gillette

14:49:30 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

14:50:10 Rep. Connie Keogh

14:50:46 Rep. Bill Mercer

14:51:39 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

14:51:55 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

15:09:57 Kristen Page-Nei, ACS

15:16:24 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:18:22 Nicole Grossberg, Administrator, Child and Family Services, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

15:19:52 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

15:20:09 Nicole Grossberg, DPHHS

15:21:05 Kim Aiken, DPHHS

15:24:27 Rep. Connie Keogh

15:26:42 Todd Harwell, DPHHS

15:27:06 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

15:27:32 Josh Poulette, LFD

15:30:18 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

15:34:40 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
15:35:07 Kim Aiken, DPHHS
15:36:35 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
15:39:09 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
15:41:00 Rep. Bill Mercer
15:42:12 Josh Poulette, LFD
15:42:23 Rep. Bill Mercer
15:44:29 Chair Llew Jones
15:46:39 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

Proponent Testimony:

16:16:12 James Brown, President, Montana Public Service Commission (PSC)

[EXHIBIT\(230309APHa6\)](#)

16:24:12 May Simmons, self

Questions from Committee:

15:52:44 Chair Keenan closed the hearing on Section B

16:03:48 Chair Mercer

16:26:38 Rep. David Bedey

16:27:17 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:29:15 James Brown, PSC

16:29:35 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:30:16 James Brown, PSC

Proponent Testimony:

16:55:12 May Simmons, self

16:57:06 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU Montana

16:58:15 Tirza Asbell, Montana Women Vote

17:01:30 Zuri Moreno, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

Questions from Committee:

17:04:25 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
17:05:28 Kathy Duncan, LFD
17:07:49 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
17:08:04 Rep. Jones joined the meeting.
17:08:47 Brett Schandelson, OPD
17:15:40 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
17:16:01 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU Montana
17:16:30 Rep. Fiona Nave
17:17:30 Brett Schandelson, OPD
17:24:49 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
17:25:20 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:27:33 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:29:04 Rep. Bill Mercer

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

18:42:52 **Recessed**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:43:40

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230309APHaad\)](#)