

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 10, 2023 at 7:30 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. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
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 2 03/03/2023

Executive Action:

07:33:45 **Reconvened**

09:10:10 **Recessed**

09:26:33 **Reconvened**

11:03:38 **Recessed**

11:14:08 **Reconvened**

12:29:35 **Recessed**

16:06:52 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 2 - General Appropriations Act

Informational Witness Testimony:

07:35:04 Chair Mercer

07:43:18 Brian Gootkin, Director, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Proponent Testimony:

07:50:09 May Simmons, self

08:06:32 Erin McGowan, Montana Community Corrections Association (MCCA)
[EXHIBIT\(230310APHa1\)](#)

08:10:03 Mark Baker, CoreCivic, Crossroads Correctional Center
[EXHIBIT\(230310APHa2\)](#)

08:13:45 Alan Scanlon, Montana Community Corrections Association (MCCA)

08:17:14 Larry Nielsen, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

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)

08:26:47 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:27:42 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

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

08:35:31 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

08:51:08 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:51:30 Mark Baker, CoreCivic

08:52:41 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:53:28 Rep. Bill Mercer

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:54:40 Chair Mercer

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

Questions from Committee:

09:01:36 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:01:46 Beth McLaughlin, Judicial Branch

09:06:30 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:06:55 Beth Mclaughlin, Judicial Branch

09:08:10 Rep. Bill Mercer

Opening Statement:

09:26:42 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 2, General Appropriations Act.

Discussion:

09:32:45 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Proponent Testimony:

09:34:53 Clayton Elliot, Montana Trout Unlimited

09:36:02 Noah Marion, Wild Montana

Questions from Committee:

09:37:16 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:37:55 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

09:38:06 Rob Miller, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

09:39:19 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:39:49 Rob Miller, LFD

09:40:07 Quinn Holzer

09:40:50 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:41:07 Quinn Holzer

Questions from Committee:

09:42:22 Chair Schillinger, DEQ Hearing
09:47:55 Rep. Fiona Nave
09:48:52 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
09:51:02 Rep. Jim Hamilton
09:52:28 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
09:52:51 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:54:28 Chair Schillinger, MDT Hearing
09:56:54 Malcolm Long, Director, Department of Transportation (MDT)
09:59:49 Larry Flynn, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Department of
Transportation (MDT)
10:01:35 Chair Schillinger

[EXHIBIT\(230310APHa3\)](#)

Questions from Committee:

10:03:07 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
10:06:14 Rep. Fiona Nave
10:06:58 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
10:07:51 Larry Flynn, MDT
10:10:55 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
10:11:14 Larry Flynn, MDT
10:12:42 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:15:51 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Montana Department of Livestock
(DOL)
10:22:09 KristaLee Evans, Montana Milk Producers Association (MMPA)

Questions from Committee:

10:22:49 Rep. Jim Hamilton
10:23:22 Mike Honeycutt, DOL
10:31:33 Rep. Paul Tuss
10:32:13 Mike Honeycutt, DOL
10:34:39 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:38:13 Amanda Kaster, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Proponent Testimony:

10:43:15 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited, (MTU)
10:44:19 Dean Rogge, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)
10:46:42 Krista Lee Evans, Dry Prairie Regional Water Authority, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SWRC), Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI), Water Resources Division (WRD)
10:47:47 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

Questions from Committee:

10:49:52 Rep. Jim Hamilton
10:50:43 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
10:52:15 Chair Llew Jones
10:53:51 Rep. Jim Hamilton
10:54:08 Rob Miller, LFD
10:55:20 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:55:49 Chair Schillinger
10:57:35 Zach Coccoli, Administrator, Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Proponent Testimony:

11:00:00 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Agricultural Business Association, Montana
Grain Elevator Association

Questions from Committee:

11:01:17 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

Informational Witness Testimony:

11:15:45 Chair Bedey

11:17:48 Chair Bedey, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education Hearing

11:28:00 Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education

Proponent Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:31:41 Rep. Jane Gillette

11:37:05 Rep. David Bedey

11:41:00 Rep. Paul Tuss

11:41:16 Rep. David Bedey

11:42:27 Rep. Terry Falk

11:43:55 Commissioner Christian, OCHE

11:44:55 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:46:04 Commissioner Christian, OCHE

12:01:03 Rep. Jim Hamilton

12:01:49 Commissioner Christian, OCHE

12:02:55 Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Commissioner of Higher
Education (OCHE)

12:03:31 Rep. Jim Hamilton

12:03:40 Tyler Trevor, OCHE

12:04:11 Rep. Jim Hamilton

12:05:02 Commissioner Christian, OCHE

12:06:04 Katie Guenther, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

12:07:15 Rep. Jim Hamilton

12:07:29 Commissioner Christian, OCHE

12:08:06 Rep. Jim Hamilton

12:08:28 Rep. David Bedey

12:09:27 Rep. Bill Mercer

12:10:19 Rep. David Bedey

12:12:56 Tyler Trevor, OCHE

12:14:13 Rep. Bill Mercer

12:14:44 Commissioner Christian, OCHE

12:17:59 Rep. David Bedey

12:19:01 Commissioner Christian, OCHE

12:19:36 Rep. Bill Mercer

12:20:14 Chair Llew Jones

12:28:04 Rep. Paul Tuss

12:28:19 Rep. David Bedey

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:08:43 Chair Bedey, School for the Deaf and Blind Hearing

16:12:24 Paul Furthmyre, Superintendent, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB)

Proponent Testimony:

16:19:52 McHall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

Questions from Committee:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:22:28 Chair Bedey
16:25:16 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

Questions from Committee:

16:29:46 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:30:10 Rep. David Bedey
16:31:21 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:31:39 McCall Flynn, BPE
16:32:53 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
16:34:20 Rep. David Bedey

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:36:56 Kristin Burgoyne, Deputy Director, Montana Arts Council

Questions from Committee:

16:37:46 Rep. Paul Tuss
16:39:21 Rep. David Bedey

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:43:04 Molly Kruckenberg, Director, Montana Historical Society (MHS)

Questions from Committee:

16:47:31 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
16:47:48 Rep. David Bedey
16:48:11 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
16:49:08 Molly Kruckenberg, MHS
16:49:35 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:51:24 Chair Llew Jones
16:52:48 Nancy Hall, Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

16:53:49 Chair Llew Jones

16:54:17 Rep. Fiona Nave

16:54:41 Chair Llew Jones

16:55:35 Rep. Fiona Nave

16:56:09 Chair Llew Jones

16:56:50 Nancy Hall, OBPP

16:58:23 Rep. Fiona Nave

16:58:53 Rep. Bill Mercer left the meeting.

16:59:23 Chair Llew Jones

17:00:03 Alice Hecht, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

17:03:12 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:03:40 Alice Hecht, LFD

17:04:02 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:04:06 Alice Hecht, LFD

17:04:20 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:04:25 Alice Hecht, LFD

17:04:32 Chair Llew Jones

17:05:18 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:05:20 Chair Llew Jones

17:05:35 Rep. Bill Mercer joined the meeting.

17:05:47 Rep. Terry Moore

17:06:20 Molly Kruckenberg, MHS

17:06:48 Emily McKeever

17:07:12 Rep. Terry Moore

17:08:17 Alice Hecht, LFD
17:08:57 Rep. Terry Moore
17:09:48 Nancy Hall, OBPP
17:11:41 Chair Llew Jones
17:14:18 Rep. Terry Moore
17:14:48 Molly Kruckenberg, MHS
17:19:51 Rep. David Bedey

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:26:24 Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, Montana State Library (MSL)
[EXHIBIT\(230310APHa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

17:29:35 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association

Questions from Committee:

17:30:02 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:31:30 Malissa Briggs, Central Services Manager, Montana State Library (MSL)
17:32:59 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:33:19 Malissa Briggs, MSL
17:33:32 Chair Llew Jones
17:33:53 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:34:14 Jennie Stapp, MSL
17:34:22 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
17:35:02 Jennie Stapp, MSL
17:36:39 Chair Llew Jones

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:49:13

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230310APHaad\)](#)