

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 13, 2023 at 8:01 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 03/10/2023

Executive Action:

HB 2 MOVED TO CLOSE  
SECTION C

08:04:56           **Reconvened**

12:23:05           **Recessed**

14:55:19           **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 2 - General Appropriations Act**

**Opening Statement:**

08:07:15           Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 2, General Appropriations Act.

**Discussion:**

08:12:46           Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:13:29           Rep. Jim Hamilton

08:13:50           Rep. David Bedey

08:14:36           Chair Llew Jones

08:21:03           Rep. David Bedey

08:24:14           Rep. Jim Hamilton

08:25:21           Julia Pattin, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

08:29:15           Rep. David Bedey

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:38:24           Rep. Falk

08:40:35           Rep. Hamilton

08:41:09           Katie Guenther, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

08:42:13           Rep. Moore, Legislative Branch Hearing

08:45:07           Jerry Howe, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT\(230313APHa1\)](#)

08:51:30 Amy Carlson, Director, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
08:52:11 Angus Maciver, Director, Legislative Audit Division (LAD)  
08:56:44 Marilyn Miller, Secretary of the Senate  
08:58:37 Carolyn Tshida, Chief Clerk of the House

**Questions from Committee:**

08:59:11 Rep. Paul Tuss  
08:59:50 Jerry Howe, LSD  
09:03:04 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
09:04:01 Angus Maciver, LAD  
09:06:45 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
09:06:47 Jerry Howe, LSD  
09:08:39 Angus Maciver, LAD  
09:12:16 Amy Carlson, LFD  
09:14:38 Rep. Terry Moore  
09:17:19 Chair Llew Jones

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:20:38 Jason Brown, Consumer Council

**Questions from Committee:**

09:22:39 Rep. Bill Mercer  
09:23:03 Jason Brown, Consumer Council

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:32:31 Kristine Heggem, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

**Questions from Committee:**

09:35:39 Rep. Jane Gillette  
09:35:54 Rep. Terry Moore

09:37:23 Amy Sassano, Governor's Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

09:37:48 Rep. Jane Gillette

09:39:00 Amy Sassano, OBPP

09:40:26 Rep. Jane Gillette

09:41:32 Rep. Terry Moore

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:47:28 Chair Moore

09:48:08 Chris Gallus, Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

09:56:09 Kymberly Trujillo

**Questions from Committee:**

09:56:49 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:58:10 Chair Moore

**Questions from Committee:**

10:00:50 Rep. Terry Moore

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:01:37 Chair Moore, DOR Overview

10:04:15 Brendan Beatty, Department of Revenue (DOR)

10:11:29 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter

**Questions from Committee:**

10:11:27 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

10:12:21 Brendan Beatty, DOR

10:12:55 Kate Cholewa Montana Cannabis Control Division (CCD)

[EXHIBIT\(230313APHa2\)](#)

10:18:47 Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:20:33           Brendan Beatty, DOR

10:26:01           Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

10:26:26           Kate Cholewa, CCD

10:26:40           Rep. Jane Gillette

10:26:48           Brendan Beatty, DOR

10:28:18           Tracy Morano, Chief Operations Director, DOR

10:28:45           Rep. Jane Gillette

10:29:04           Tracy Morano, DOR

10:29:27           Rep. Jane Gillette

10:29:58           Rep. Terry Moore

10:36:18           Rep. Jerry Schillinger

10:38:09           Rep. David Bedey

10:39:26           Brendan Beatty, DOR

10:39:58           Rep. Jerry Schillinger

10:40:21           Brendan Beatty, DOR

10:41:43           Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:42:14           Tracy Morano, DOR

10:42:55           Rep. Terry Moore

10:44:22           Rep. Bill Mercer

10:44:36           Frank Coty, State Auditor's Office

10:48:21           Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:50:24           Frank Coty, State Auditors Office

10:51:37           Rep. Terry Moore

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:57:05 Misty Ann Giles, Department of Administration (DOA)

11:01:15 Sen. D. Zolnikov

[EXHIBIT\(230313APHa3\)](#)

**Questions from Committee:**

11:04:42 Rep. Fiona Nave

11:06:50 Kevin Gilbertson, Chief Information Officer, Department of Administration (DOA\_

11:06:56 Rep. Fiona Nave

11:10:06 April Grady, Chief Financial Officer, Information Services Division

11:13:11 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:13:47 Molly DelCurto, LFD

11:13:56 Katie Guenther, LFD

11:14:43 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:15:57 Misty Ann Giles, DOA

11:25:25 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:26:00 Misty Ann Giles, DOA

11:26:46 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:27:25 Misty Ann Giles, DOA

11:27:56 Rep. David Bedey

11:31:30 Rep. Terry Moore

11:33:00 Rep. David Bedey

11:33:05 Misty Ann Giles, DOA

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

11:38:26 Scott Osterman, Director, Department of Commerce

11:47:08 John Thorson, Paradise Center, Sanders County

**Questions from Committee:**

11:52:21 Rep. Fiona Nave  
11:55:40 Scott Osterman, Department of Commerce  
11:58:15 Rep. Paul Tuss  
11:59:14 Scott Osterman, Department of Commerce  
12:00:35 Renee Lemon, Administrator, Community MT Division

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

12:04:38 Rep. Falk  
12:07:24 General J. Peter Hronek, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

**Questions from Committee:**

12:19:47 Rep. Terry Falk

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

14:58:42 Lori Esau, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:01:53 Rep. Terry Moore  
15:15:45 Chair Jones  
15:16:36 Amy Carlson, LFD  
15:28:44 Committee Discussion on Inflation Rates.

[EXHIBIT\(230313APHa4\)](#)

15:06:31 **Recessed**  
15:15:32 **Reconvened**  
16:13:30 **Recessed**  
16:48:03 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - General Appropriations Act**

16:49:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 2 MOVED THE BOILER PLATE LANGUAGE BP 1 HB002.AP.**

**Discussion:**

16:49:39 Quinn Holzer

16:53:06 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:01:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:53:38 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 2 MOVED THAT THE EXECUTIVE ACTION FOR HB 2 BOILER PLATE BE CLOSED.**

11:01:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:54:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 2 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:55:05 Alice Hecht, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

16:56:48 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:01:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:57:49 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 2 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:58:03 Quinn Holzer

16:58:59 Chair Llew Jones

17:00:21 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:01:17 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

17:01:41 Rep. Fiona Nave

17:01:56 Chair Llew Jones

17:02:03 Quinn Holzer

17:02:18 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:02:53 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

17:03:28 Rep. Joe Read

17:04:07 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

17:05:07 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

17:05:16 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy

11:01:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart

Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.  
Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

17:09:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 2 MOVED TO CLOSE SECTION C.**

**Discussion:**

17:10:24 Julie Johnson

11:01:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:11:16 Chair Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:12:14

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Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230313APHaad\)](#)