

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

Call to Order: Chair Fred Anderson-R, on March 13, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)

Staff Present: Rose Harmon, Secretary
Amanda Persons, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Laura Sankey Keip, 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:

SB 1 03/09/2023
SB 10 03/09/2023
SB 69 03/09/2023
SB 70 03/09/2023

Executive Action:

HB 445 DO PASS
SB 129 TO TABLE
SB 1
SB 69
SB 70

HEARING ON SB 10 - Clarify school finance laws related to general fund levies

Opening Statement:

15:04:24 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 10, Clarify school finance laws related to general fund levies.

Proponent Testimony:

15:06:43 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:08:36 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:09:48 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, closed the hearing on SB 10.

HEARING ON SB 69 - Clarify school transportation laws related to passenger vehicles

Opening Statement:

15:10:15 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 69, Clarify school transportation laws related to passenger vehicles.

Proponent Testimony:

15:11:12 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:13:17 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

15:14:07 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:14:38 Paul Taylor, OPI

15:15:04 Becky Belling, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Closing Statement:

15:15:49 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, closed the hearing on SB 69.

HEARING ON SB 70 - Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

Opening Statement:

15:16:20 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 70, Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program.

Proponent Testimony:

15:21:13 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:23:54 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education

15:24:22 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Public Instruction

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:24:52 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, closed the hearing on SB 70.

HEARING ON SB 1 - Align payment schedule of school block grants

Opening Statement:

15:31:54 Sen. Daniel Salomon (R), SD 47, opened the hearing on SB 1, Align payment schedule of school block grants.

Proponent Testimony:

15:32:45 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:34:15 Becky Belling, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:34:52 Sen. Daniel Salomon (R), SD 47, closed the hearing on SB 1.

Discussion:

15:35:07 Rep. Mark Thane left the meeting.

19:35:08 Rep. Marta Bertoglio left the meeting.

15:35:26 **Recessed**

15:56:50 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 445 - Establish mentoring program for new teachers

15:57:12 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **HB 445 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:57:48 Rep. Melissa Romano

15:59:04 Rep. Sherry Essmann

15:59:29 Rep. Melissa Romano

15:59:55 Rep. Lee Deming
16:00:11 Rep. Melissa Romano
15:57:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 129 - Revise laws related to compulsory attendance

16:02:59 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **SB 129 BE CONCURRED IN.**
16:02:59 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Anderson, Rep. Essmann, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting yes. Rep. Thane, By Proxy
16:05:12 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 129 TO TABLE.**
16:05:12 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 1 - Align payment schedule of school block grants

16:06:50 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **SB 1 BE CONCURRED IN.**
16:06:50 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
16:06:50 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Linda Reksten

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 69 - Clarify school transportation laws related to passenger vehicles

16:08:09 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **SB 69 BE CONCURRED IN.**
16:08:09 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
16:08:09 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Fred Anderson

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 70 - Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

16:09:18 **Motion:** Rep. Linda Reksten moved that **SB 70 BE CONCURRED IN.**
16:09:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
16:09:18 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Fred Anderson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:13:23

Rose Harmon, Secretary

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