

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

Call to Order: Chair Brandon Ler-R, on March 13, 2023 at 8:02 AM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Laura Smith (D)
Rep. Zooley Zephyr (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)

Staff Present: Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary
Rachel Weiss, 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 405 03/08/2023

HB 517 03/08/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 517 - Constitutional amendment regarding board of regents

Opening Statement:

08:03:33 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 517, Constitutional amendment regarding board of regents.

Proponent Testimony:

08:04:16 Tyler Coward, Foundation in Individual Rights and Expression

08:08:33 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity, Montana

08:11:27 Vice Chair Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

08:13:23 Rachel Stevenson, Young Americans for Liberty

08:16:11 Dylan Dean, Young Americans for Liberty

[EXHIBIT\(230313JUH1\)](#)

08:18:46 Jacob Riegelhath, Young Americans For Liberty

08:20:03 Sandra Vasecka, Missoula City Counsel

08:21:29 Nicolas Ellerton, Self

08:23:14 Victoria Foster, Self

08:25:16 Hannah Allen, Self

08:27:29 Dylan Stokes, Self

08:29:38 Eileen Gutherie, Self

08:31:38 Dylan O'Brien, Self

08:33:47 Emma Jones, Self

08:36:29 Christopher Rogge, Self

Opponent Testimony:

08:38:05 Kevin McRae, Montana University System
08:46:17 Ethan Hanley, Associated Students of The University of Montana
08:48:30 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees
08:54:54 Maggie Bell, Montana Associated Students
08:59:23 Evan Barrett, Self
09:09:37 Isabella Roccisano, Associated Students of Montana State University
09:12:45 Katie Fire Thunder, Self
09:14:06 Jon Ellingson, Big Sky 55 Plus
09:17:00 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters
09:19:20 Elizabeth Bowles, Associated Students of the University of Montana

Questions from Committee:

09:21:02 Rep. Caleb Hinkle
10:07:13 Sponsor

Closing Statement:

10:16:06 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 517.

HEARING ON HB 405 - Constitutional amendment related to grand juries

Opening Statement:

10:17:18 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 405, Constitutional amendment related to grand juries.

Proponent Testimony:

10:21:49 Bart Crabtree, Montana Citizens Counsel on Judicial Accountability
10:28:23 Glen Fowler, Self
10:30:48 Sharlow Lilly, Self
10:38:03 Alan Lackey, Self

10:40:19 Denise Johnson, Self

Opponent Testimony:

10:42:07 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

10:43:03 Cory Swanson, Broadwater County Attorney

10:52:01 Brian Thompson, Montana County Attorney's Association

10:55:12 Norane Appling-Freistadt, Self

10:57:23 Evan Barrett, Self

11:01:54 Joanie Kresich, Self

11:05:30 Travis McAdam, Montana Human Rights Network

11:07:56 Richard Liebert, Self

Questions from Committee:

11:11:36 Rep. Wayne Rusk

11:17:20 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway-R

11:17:31 Rep. Neil Duram

11:18:09 Cory Swanson

11:23:22 Bart Crabtree

Closing Statement:

11:24:38 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HB 405.

11:25:03 **Committee Discussion:** Discussion on Executive Action

11:25:24 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

11:25:26 Chair Amy Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:25:36

Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

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