

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

Call to Order: Chair Edward Buttrey, on March 14, 2023 at 3:05 PM, in 152

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Alice Buckley, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Edward Buttrey (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (D)
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Rep. Amy Regier (R)
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)
Rep. Laura Smith (D)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Tom Welch (R)
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Zooley Zephyr (D)

Staff Present: Milly Allen, Research Analyst
Katie Reeves, 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:

SB 163 03/10/2023

HB 648 03/11/2023

Executive Action:

15:04:35 Representative Buttrey assumed the gavel

HEARING ON HB 648 - Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program

Opening Statement:

15:06:47 Vice Chair Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 648, Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program.

Proponent Testimony:

15:10:52 Todd O'Hare, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:12:00 Kaitlyn Jensen, Executive Director, Zero to Five Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230314HUhA1\)](#)

15:14:35 Megan Ballenger, Executive Director, Raise Montana

15:17:26 John Metropoulis, Sibanye-Stillwater

15:19:05 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center

[EXHIBIT\(230314HUhA2\)](#)

15:22:55 Chair Jennifer Carlson joined the meeting.

15:23:50 Robin Turner, Womens Foundation of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230314HUhA3\)](#)

15:26:42 Rebecca Myers, Billings Chamber

15:27:58 Liz Moore, Executive Director, Montana Non Profit Association

15:29:39 Ella Smith, Montana Advocates for Children

15:31:37 Scott Wolff, Great Falls Chamber of Commerce

15:33:31 Grace Decker, Zero to Five Missoula

15:36:22 Kami Ryles, Childcare Connections

15:38:33 Rep. Kim Abbott joined the meeting.

16:10:31 Chair Carlson assumed the gavel

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:40:35 Erica Johnston, Executive Director, DPHHS

Questions from Committee:

15:41:05 Rep. Nelly Nicol

15:41:52 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

15:44:37 Robin Turner

15:45:21 Rep. Jodee Etchart

15:45:49 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

15:47:00 Erica Johnson Office of Public Health and Human Services

15:48:05 Jody Lehman, Childcare Bureau Chief

15:50:26 Rep. Ed Stafman

15:51:05 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

15:52:31 Rep. Greg Oblander

15:52:46 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

15:56:14 Heather O'Loughlin

15:57:46 Chair Jennifer Carlson

15:58:16 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

16:01:42 Megan Ballenger

16:02:42 Erica Johnson Office of Public Health and Human Services

16:03:15 Chair Jennifer Carlson

16:03:27 Erica Johnston Office of Public Health and Human Services

16:03:33 Rep. Ron Marshall

16:04:13 Erica Johnson Office of Public Health and Human Services

16:04:20 Rep. Michael Yakawich

16:05:08 Todd O'Hare

16:07:06 Chair Jennifer Carlson

16:07:54 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

16:09:49 Rep. Kim Abbott

16:10:20 Heather O'Loughlin

16:10:46 Rep. Edward Buttrey left the meeting.

16:10:57 Rep. SJ Howell

16:11:54 Megan Ballenger

16:13:13 Rep. Greg Oblander

16:13:40 Erica Johnson Office of Public Health and Human Services

Closing Statement:

16:15:24 Vice Chair Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, closed the hearing on HB 648.

HEARING ON SB 163 - Establish volunteer program in child protective services

Opening Statement:

16:17:26 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, opened the hearing on SB 163, Establish volunteer program in child protective services.

Proponent Testimony:

16:20:07 Erica Johnston, Executive Director, DPHHS

16:20:43 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:24:20 Rep. Ed Stafman
16:25:20 Erica Johnston Office of Public Health and Human Services
16:29:07 Rep. Greg Oblander
16:29:57 Erica Johnston Office of Public Health and Human Services
16:32:17 Rep. Michael Yakawich
16:32:45 Sen. Dennis Lenz-R

Closing Statement:

16:34:26 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, closed the hearing on SB 163.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:37:49

Katie Reeves, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230314HUHaad\)](#)