

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 15, 2023 at 8:34 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 5 03/02/2023

HB 10 03/02/2023
HB 546 03/02/2023
HB 629 03/02/2023
HB 817 03/02/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 629 - Provide for attorney fees and costs in certain justifiable use of force cases

Opening Statement:

08:35:55 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 629, Provide for attorney fees and costs in certain justifiable use of force cases.

Proponent Testimony:

08:37:00 Gary Marbut, President, Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:39:33 Rep. Jane Gillette
08:41:23 Rep. Brandon Ler-R
08:42:45 Rep. Bill Mercer
08:43:06 Gary Marbut, MSSA
08:49:10 Rep. Jim Hamilton
08:49:46 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

Closing Statement:

08:51:11 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, closed the hearing on HB 629.

HEARING ON HB 546 - Authorize additional funding for coal trust loan program for housing

Opening Statement:

08:51:26 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 546, Authorize additional funding for coal trust loan program for housing.

Proponent Testimony:

08:54:04 Melissa Shannon, Montana Housing Coalition

08:55:14 Sam Forstag, Montana League of Cities and Towns, City of Bozeman, City of Missoula

08:55:43 Shyla Patera, North Central Independent Living (NCIL)

08:56:30 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters of Montana (LWVM)

08:57:16 Andrea Davis, Chair, Montana Housing Coalition (MHC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:59:39 Dan Villa, Executive Director, Montana Board of Investments (MBI)

EXHIBIT1

09:00:05 Mandy Rambo, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Commerce (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

09:00:32 Rep. Terry Moore

09:02:07 Dan Villa, MBI

09:05:44 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

09:10:18 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

09:12:13 Rep. Dave Fern-D

09:12:53 Rep. Jane Gillette

09:13:01 Chair Llew Jones

09:15:17 Rep. Jane Gillette
09:16:05 Dan Villa, MBI
09:17:23 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
09:17:28 Dan Villa, MBI
09:17:51 Rep. Jim Hamilton
09:19:12 Rep. Dave Fern-D
09:19:42 Cheryl Cohen, Executive Director, Board of Housing
09:21:45 Rep. Dave Fern-D
09:24:04 Cheryl Cohen, Board of Housing
09:26:34 Rep. Jim Hamilton
09:27:12 Rep. Dave Fern-D
09:28:24 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard
09:29:09 Cheryl Cohen, Board of Housing
09:29:34 Rep. Michele Binkley
09:30:00 Rep. Dave Fern-D
09:30:51 Cheryl Cohen, Board of Housing
09:32:01 Chair Llew Jones
09:32:47 Cheryl Cohen, Board of Housing
09:33:40 Rep. Terry Moore
09:34:25 Cheryl Cohen, Board of Housing
09:35:42 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
09:36:03 Cheryl Cohen, Board of Housing

Closing Statement:

09:39:09 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 546.

HEARING ON HB 5 - Long-range building appropriations

Opening Statement:

09:42:27 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 5, Long-range building appropriations.

Discussion:

EXHIBIT2

Proponent Testimony:

09:48:26 Dave Williamson, Chairman, Southwest Montana Veteran Foundation

EXHIBIT3

09:53:28 Bill Willing, Trustee, Southwest Veterans Home Foundation, Chairman, Southwest Veterans Home Site Committee, Chairman, Veterans Affairs Board

09:57:04 Mike Lawson, self

09:58:18 Clayton Christian, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), Montana University System

09:59:20 Russ Katherman, Director, Architecture and Engineering Division, Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

10:00:10 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation

10:00:28 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

EXHIBIT4

10:01:23 Noah Marion, Wild Montana

10:01:48 Sam Forstag, Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness (MCSH)

EXHIBIT5

10:02:40 Christopher Krager, Executive Director, Samaritan House

10:03:51 Heather Grenier, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:06:22 Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

10:06:46 Jason Harlow, Governor's Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

10:06:57 Mandy Rambo, Deputy Director, Department of Commerce (DOC)

10:07:10 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

10:07:19 Kerry DeVant, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Transportation (DNRC)

10:07:29 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

10:07:47 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

10:08:16 Lieutenant Kurt Sager, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)

10:08:30 William Evo, Chief Healthcare Facilities Officer, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

10:08:40 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

10:08:59 Ian Foley, Department of Agriculture

10:09:10 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Corrections (DOC)

10:09:30 Donna Schmidt, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

10:10:08 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Alcohol Beverage and Control Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

10:10:17 Mike Murolo, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee:

10:10:47 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:11:08 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

10:11:10 Katy Callon, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

10:14:31 Rep. Jane Gillette

10:15:06 Katy Callon, LFD

10:16:17	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
10:18:50	Rep. Bill Mercer
10:19:12	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
10:22:38	Rep. Bill Mercer
10:22:40	Clayton Christian, OCHE
10:23:46	Rep. Bill Mercer
10:23:56	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
10:24:45	Rep. Bill Mercer
10:25:06	Sam Forstag, MCSH
10:26:40	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
10:27:28	Russ Katherman, DOA
10:28:28	Rep. Fiona Nave
10:31:16	Russ Katherman, DOA
10:32:44	Rep. Connie Keogh
10:34:04	Clayton Christian, OCHE
10:36:54	Rep. Jim Hamilton
10:37:29	Clayton Christian, OCHE
10:40:08	Rep. Terry Falk
10:40:40	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
10:42:58	Russ Katherman, DOA
10:44:03	Rep. Terry Falk
10:44:38	Russ Katherman, DOA
10:46:22	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
10:46:37	Rep. Terry Falk

10:49:01	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
10:52:31	Chair Llew Jones
10:55:58	Rep. Jane Gillette
10:56:37	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
11:01:50	Major General Hronek, DMA
11:04:15	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
11:05:03	Rep. Jane Gillette
11:05:59	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
11:06:06	Rep. John Fitzpatrick
11:06:25	Rep. Jane Gillette
11:06:43	Charlie Brereton, DPHHS
11:08:51	Rep. Jane Gillette
11:10:07	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
11:11:12	Rep. Jane Gillette
11:13:40	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
11:15:08	Rep. Fiona Nave
11:15:48	Cynthia Wolken, DOC
11:19:21	Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
11:19:42	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
11:20:15	Rep. Terry Falk
11:20:55	Russ Katherman, DOA
11:21:34	Rep. Terry Falk
11:21:53	Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
11:24:36	Rep. Fiona Nave

11:25:10 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

11:25:42 Rep. Terry Falk

11:26:05 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

Closing Statement:

11:26:27 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 5.

HEARING ON HB 817 - Provide for capital projects

Opening Statement:

11:29:03 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 817, Provide for capital projects.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

11:38:05 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

11:38:06 Russ Katherman, Administrator, Architecture and Engineering Division, Department of Administration (DOA)

11:38:47 Jason Harlow, Governor's Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

11:39:03 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

11:39:45 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

11:40:07 Russ Katherman, DOA

11:41:37 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:42:04 Russ Katherman, DOA

11:44:31 Rep. Fiona Nave

11:44:49 Russ Katherman, DOA

11:47:50 Rep. Fiona Nave

11:48:14 Cynthia Wolken, DOC

Closing Statement:

11:51:35 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, closed the hearing on HB 817.

HEARING ON HB 10 - Long-range information technology financings and appropriations

Opening Statement:

11:51:57 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 10, Long-range information technology financings and appropriations.

Proponent Testimony:

11:56:31 Kevin Gilberston, Chief Information Officer, State of Montana

11:57:54 Will Selph, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

11:58:12 Beth McLaughlin, Judicial Branch

11:58:33 Kerry DeVant, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

11:58:46 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

11:59:09 Ian Foley, Administrator, Agricultural Sciences Division, Department of Agriculture (DOA)

11:59:22 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

11:59:27 Brett Schandelson, Director, Office of Public Defender

11:59:41 Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

11:59:57 Dave Kuntz, Montana University System, University of Montana

12:00:17 Shelly McCann, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

12:00:56 Jennifer Fielder, Vice President, Montana Public Service Commission
(PSC)

12:01:03 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Corrections
(DOC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

12:01:34 Jason Harlow, Governor's Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

12:01:51 Lisa Mader, Judicial Branch

Questions from Committee:

12:02:17 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

12:03:34 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

12:03:55 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

12:05:46 Rep. Fiona Nave

12:06:37 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

12:07:29 Rep. Jane Gillette

12:08:03 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

12:08:12 Kevin Gilbertson, State of Montana

12:11:13 Rep. Jane Gillette

12:12:58 Chair Llew Jones

12:14:18 Kevin Gilbertson, State of Montana

12:15:32 Misty Ann Giles, Department of Administration (DOA)

Closing Statement:

12:16:11 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 10.

12:17:42 Quinn Holzer

12:20:57 Amy Carlson EXHIBIT31 EXHIBIT32

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 09:02:10

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230315APHaad\)](#)