

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

Call to Order: Chair Fred Anderson-R, on March 15, 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. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused: 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:

HB 749 03/09/2023

SB 8 03/13/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 8 - Revise transformational learning program laws

Opening Statement:

15:04:08 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 8, Revise transformational learning program laws.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230315EDHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:10:58 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

15:15:07 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Montana Governor's Office (GOV)

15:16:26 Charles Denowh, Yes Every Kid

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:17:30 Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:17:58 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education

Questions from Committee:

15:18:17 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:18:59 Sharyl Allen, OPI

15:19:58 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:20:40 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D

15:24:06 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:24:27 Dylan Klapmeier, GOV

15:24:51 Rep. Sherry Essmann
15:25:53 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D
15:30:56 Rep. Mark Thane
15:32:23 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D
15:32:30 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
15:33:40 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D
15:38:33 Chair Fred Anderson

Closing Statement:

15:38:50 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, closed the hearing on SB 8.

15:41:33 **Recessed**

16:07:00 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 749 - Revise Montana digital academy laws

Opening Statement:

16:07:13 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 749, Revise Montana digital academy laws.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230315EDHa2\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

16:13:49 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Montana Governor's Office (GOV)

16:16:11 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

Opponent Testimony:

16:19:40 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:21:58 Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
16:22:36 Ken Bailey, Former Chief Financial Officer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
16:22:51 Jason Neiffer, Executive Director, Montana Digital Academy (MDA)

Questions from Committee:

16:23:28 Rep. Mark Thane
16:23:55 Rep. Llew Jones-R
16:28:12 Rep. James Bergstrom
16:28:47 Jason Nieffer, MDA
16:31:01 Rep. Lee Deming
16:31:24 Jason Neiffer, MDA

Closing Statement:

16:33:08 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 749.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:35:47

Rose Harmon, Secretary

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

