

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 16, 2023 at 2:23 PM, in Room 102

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. Bob Keenan, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. David Bedey (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (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 791 03/03/2023

HB 766 03/03/2023

HB 652 03/03/2023

HB 649 03/03/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 652 - Revise unemployment insurance law relating to benefit duration

Opening Statement:

14:25:00 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 652, Revise unemployment insurance law relating to benefit duration.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

14:26:32 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 652.

HEARING ON HB 766 - Revise laws related to human trafficking

Opening Statement:

14:27:16 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 766, Revise laws related to human trafficking.

Discussion:

14:27:18 Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Schillinger, Rep. Hopkins, and Rep. Keogh joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

14:29:55 Rep. Jim Hamilton
14:30:24 Rep. Dave Fern-D
14:31:31 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
14:32:26 Rep. Falk
14:32:41 Rep. Dave Fern-D
14:33:03 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy and Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.
14:35:28 Rep. Jane Gillette
14:36:10 Chair Llew Jones
14:37:03 Rep. Jane Gillette
14:37:32 Rep. Dave Fern-D
14:40:09 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
14:40:28 Rep. Dave Fern-D
14:41:52 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

Closing Statement:

14:42:07 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 766.

HEARING ON HB 791 - Generally revise drug crime sentences

Opening Statement:

14:42:48 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 791,
Generally revise drug crime sentences.

Proponent Testimony:

14:45:43 Alex Sterhan, Policy Advisor, Department of Justice (DOJ)

14:46:19 Dan Smith, Executive Director, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)

14:47:04 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, (MSPOA) one more

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

14:48:13 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

14:48:42 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

14:49:40 Alex Sterhan, DOJ

14:49:42 Rep. Fiona Nave

14:50:10 Alex Sterhan, DOJ

14:50:29 Steve Crawford, Chief, Narcotics Bureau, Criminal Investigation Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

14:52:27 Rep. Bill Mercer

14:52:46 Rep. Fiona Nave

14:53:27 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

14:54:06 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA

14:55:31 Rep. Jane Gillette

14:56:31 Natalie Smitham, DOC

14:59:11 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:00:05 Natalie Smitham, DOC

15:04:45 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:05:35 Steve Crawford, DOJ

15:08:53 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA

15:09:40 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:10:06 Steve Crawford, DOJ

15:11:38 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

15:12:13 Quinn Holzer

15:12:38 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

15:12:43 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

15:13:43 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

15:14:38 Quinn Holzer

15:15:00 Julie Johnson

15:15:28 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

15:15:46 Steve Crawford, DOJ

15:17:38 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA

15:18:18 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

15:18:49 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

15:19:00 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:19:39 Nanette Gilbertson, MSPOA

15:21:44 Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Nave and Rep. Schillinger left the meeting.

Closing Statement:

15:23:24 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 791.

HEARING ON HB 649 - Implement rates from provider rate study

Opening Statement:

15:27:34 Vice Chair Mary Caferro (D), HD 81, opened the hearing on HB 649, Implement rates from provider rate study.

Proponent Testimony:

15:32:44 Laura Gill, self

15:35:30 Rudy Steiner, self

15:39:34 Andrea McDonald, Aspen Adult Services

15:41:29 Jacey Garder, self

15:43:16 Shaun Conroe, Ability Montana

15:44:41 Sidney Blair, Center for Mental Health, Whole Health?

15:47:00 Lynette Kosovich, Rimrock, Billings

15:48:29 Henry Bigler, self

15:50:37 Dakotah Herley, self

15:53:47 Jackie Mohler, Family Outreach

15:55:39 Rep. Nave joined the meeting.

15:56:04 Jean Morgan, Spring Meadow Resources

15:57:07 Joel Peden, Ability Montana, Summit Independent Living Center

16:02:23 Levi Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Western Montana Mental Health Center

16:03:22 Mitch Tropila, Easter Seals Goodwill

16:06:21 Darcelle Vaughn, Administrator, Gallatin Rest Home

[EXHIBIT\(230316APHb1\)](#)

16:13:06 Wes Thompson, Administrator, Valley View Home

16:16:22 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

16:17:46 Zach Brown, Gallatin County Commissioner

16:20:56 Jackie Semmens, Montana Budget and Policy Center

16:22:43 Matt Bugni, AWARE Inc.

16:25:52 Tal Goldin, Disability Rights Montana

16:28:10 Sam Forstag, Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness

16:28:58 Erin McGowan, Confluence Public Health, HRDCs across the state

[EXHIBIT\(230316APHb2\)](#)

16:31:10 Matt Kuntz, NAMI Montana

16:31:47 Robin Turner, MT Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

16:32:15 Rose Hughes, Montana Healthcare Association

[EXHIBIT\(230316APHb3\)](#)

16:36:44 Margaret MacDonald, Big Sky 55+

16:37:38 Claire Marshall, Alzheimer's Association

16:38:05 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU Montana

16:38:15 Rep. Mercer and Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

16:39:29 Pat Noonan, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana (BHAM)

16:40:20 Jenna Martin, Montana Branch for Organization for Women

16:42:03 Diana Tavary, self

16:43:39 Travis Hoffman, self

16:45:54 Brenda Kneeland, Eastern Community Mental Health Center

16:48:34 Darren Larson, self

16:51:29 Tyson Schumacher, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch

16:52:18 Jacquie Helt, Service Employees International Union 775

16:55:45 Paula Small-Plenty, self

16:57:06 Jason Cronk, President, CEO, Emmanuel Nursing Home

16:59:20 Barbara Cowan, Director, Partnership for Children, Missoula

17:02:37 Mike White, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:04:07 Gene Hermanson, Chief Financial Officer, Medicaid, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

17:04:25 Mike Randol, Director, Medicaid, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

17:04:47 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

17:05:40 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

17:06:53 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

17:07:15 Mike White

17:08:06 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

17:08:37 Matt Bugni, AWARE Inc.

17:13:07 Mitch Tropila, Easter Seals Goodwill

17:16:09 Rep. Windy Boy

17:17:51 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:18:57 Rep. Mercer and Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

17:19:40 Mike Randol, DPHHS

17:23:18 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:25:59 Zach Brown, Gallatin County

17:30:58 Rep. David Bedey

17:31:49 Rep. Mary Caferro-D

17:33:48 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

17:34:01 Darcelle Vaughn, Gallatin Rest Home

17:34:58	Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
17:35:26	Darcelle Vaughn, Gallatin Rest Home
17:38:26	Vice Chair Bob Keenan
17:38:57	Zach Brown, Gallatin County
17:41:38	Vice Chair Bob Keenan
17:41:43	Mike Randol, DPHHS
17:42:56	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:43:43	Rose Hughes, Montana Healthcare Association
17:45:39	Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:45:55	Pat Noonan,
17:46:21	Vice Chair Bob Keenan
17:47:32	Rep. Terry Falk
17:48:49	Rep. Mary Caferro-D
17:50:45	Mike Randol, DPHHS
17:54:54	Rep. Terry Falk
17:54:56	Rep. Mary Caferro-D
17:56:39	Mike Randol, DPHHS
17:57:34	Rep. Terry Falk
17:59:24	Rep. Mary Caferro-D
18:00:11	Rep. Bill Mercer
18:03:09	Gene Hermanson, DPHHS
18:06:51	Rep. Bill Mercer
18:07:54	Rose Hughes, MHA
18:11:35	Rep. Bill Mercer

18:12:02 Rep. Mary Caferro-D
18:13:10 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.
18:23:52 Rep. Bill Mercer
18:24:31 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS
18:25:12 Rep. Jane Gillette
18:26:03 Mike Randol, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

18:30:21 Vice Chair Mary Caferro (D), HD 81, closed the hearing on HB 649.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 19:05:31

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230316APHbad\)](#)