

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

Call to Order: Chair Fred Anderson-R, on March 20, 2023 at 2:37 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. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Brandon Ler (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:

SB 289 03/16/2023

SB 444 03/16/2023

SB 480 03/16/2023

SB 213 03/17/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 289 - Allow tuition waivers for qualified survivors of firefighters and peace officers

Opening Statement:

14:39:13 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 289, Allow tuition waivers for qualified survivors of firefighters and peace officers.

Proponent Testimony:

14:41:46 Carter Marsh, Montana State Firemen's Association (MSFA)

[EXHIBIT\(230320EDHa1\)](#)

14:44:22 Dan Smith, Executive Director, Montana Police Protective Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

14:45:35 Andy Ekblad, Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters (MSCOPFF)

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

14:46:22 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 289.

HEARING ON SB 213 - Revise laws related to school safety teams

Opening Statement:

14:47:22 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 213, Revise laws related to school safety teams.

Proponent Testimony:

14:50:37 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association,
Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

14:52:55 Ken Vivrette, Self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

14:55:29 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

14:56:19 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty-D

14:57:32 Rep. Lee Deming

14:57:39 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

14:57:55 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty-D

14:58:42 Vice Chair Linda Reksten left the meeting.

Closing Statement:

14:59:08 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), SD 38, closed the hearing on SB 213.

**HEARING ON SB 480 - Remove opt in requirement for student contact information on
ACT test**

Opening Statement:

14:59:58 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 480,
Remove opt in requirement for student contact information on ACT test.

Proponent Testimony:

15:05:38 Sandra Bauman, Dean/Chief Executive Officer, Helena College, University
of Montana

15:08:48 John Cech, President, Carroll College

15:12:58 Erik Rose, Director of Institutional Research, Carroll College (Carroll)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:16:10 Rep. Melissa Romano
15:16:48 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell-D
15:17:45 Erik Rose, Carroll

Closing Statement:

15:18:42 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D), SD 42, closed the hearing on SB 480.
15:19:50 **Recessed**
15:27:48 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON SB 444 - Generally revise labor laws related to work-based learning

Opening Statement:

15:28:04 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 444, Generally revise labor laws related to work-based learning.

Proponent Testimony:

15:30:16 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
15:32:38 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees
15:32:55 Steve Wade, Montana Contractor's Association (MCA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:34:24 Quinlan O'Connor, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Services, Montana Department of Labor and Industry

15:34:44 Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction

Questions from Committee:

15:35:18 Rep. Mark Thane

15:35:44 Sen. Jason Small-R

Closing Statement:

15:36:07 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 444.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:37:08

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230320EDHaad\)](#)