

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

Call to Order: Chair Julie Dooling-R, on March 20, 2023 at 9:00 AM, in 455

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Julie Dooling, Chair (R)
Rep. Bob Phalen, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Heather Kellum, Secretary
Rebecca Power, 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 51 03/10/2023
SB 222 03/15/2023
SB 232 03/15/2023
SJ 17 03/15/2023
SB 424 03/16/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 51 - Generally revise procurement

Opening Statement:

09:01:10 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 51, Generally revise procurement.

Proponent Testimony:

09:03:34 Misty Giles, Department of Administration

[EXHIBIT\(230320STHa1\)](#)

09:12:13 Megan Holmland, Department of Administration

09:13:47 Don Harris, Department of Administration

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:16:02 Rep. Paul Green

09:19:40 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

09:21:39 Rep. Denise Baum

09:22:35 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

09:25:13 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 51.

10:09:54 Vice Chair Kortum has arrived

HEARING ON SB 222 - Establish the Montana Individual Freedom Act

Opening Statement:

09:25:50 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 222, Establish the Montana Individual Freedom Act.

Proponent Testimony:

09:30:21 Terri Barney, Private Citizen

[EXHIBIT\(230320STHa2\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

09:31:19 Dr. Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, Montana Human Rights Network

09:34:54 Meshayla Cox, Co-Equity Consulting

09:38:09 Cassidy Reeves, Private Citizen

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:41:17 Don Harris, Department of Administration

Questions from Committee:

09:41:49 Rep. Ed Stafman

09:47:27 Rep. Gary Parry

09:48:35 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

09:52:39 Rep. Linda Reksten

09:57:30 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

10:01:46 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

10:03:19 Rep. Denise Baum

10:11:33 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

10:14:30 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:16:27 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

10:18:23 Rep. Paul Green

10:20:29 Chair Julie Dooling

10:23:19 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

10:24:24 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 222.

HEARING ON SB 232 - Provide for deadlines to respond to public information requests

Opening Statement:

10:26:24 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SB 232, Provide for deadlines to respond to public information requests.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230320STHa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

10:34:00 Doug Reisig, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools

10:35:38 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Broadcaster's Association

10:37:21 Don Cape, Coalition for Safety and Justice

Opponent Testimony:

10:41:50 Don Cape, Coalition for Safety and Justice

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:41:21 Don Harris, Department of Administration

10:41:59 Rebecca Harbage, Department of Environmental Quality

Questions from Committee:

10:42:29 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

10:45:00 Rep. Paul Green

10:45:39 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

10:47:16 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

10:48:59 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

10:51:07 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, closed the hearing on SB 232.

HEARING ON SB 424 - Generally revise laws related to executive branch personal staff

Opening Statement:

10:52:59 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, opened the hearing on SB 424, Generally revise laws related to executive branch personal staff.

Proponent Testimony:

10:56:55 Austin Knudeson, Montana Attorney General

Opponent Testimony:

10:58:52 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230320STHa3\)](#)

11:06:42 Quint Nyman, Montana Federation of Public Employees

11:08:30 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:11:04 Rep. Michael Yakawich

11:14:45 Rep. Tony Brockman-R

11:15:40 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

11:20:40 Rep. Linda Reksten

11:24:16 Rep. Denise Baum

11:28:11 Rep. Gary Parry

11:30:40 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

11:32:57 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

11:35:11 Rep. Gary Parry

11:36:12 Rep. Denise Baum

Closing Statement:

11:37:17 Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R), SD 57, closed the hearing on SB 424.

HEARING ON SJ 17 - Joint resolution recognizing veterans and military service

Opening Statement:

11:41:46 Sen. Mike Fox (D), SD 16, opened the hearing on SJ 17, Joint resolution recognizing veterans and military service.

Proponent Testimony:

11:44:14 Roger Hagan, American Legion, Montana National Guard

11:45:06 Raymond Read, Montana Department of the American Legion

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:46:33 Rep. Gary Parry

11:47:25 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

11:47:59 Rep. Michael Yakawich

11:50:48 Rep. Zack Wirth

11:51:03 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

11:53:29 Rep. Paul Green

Closing Statement:

11:54:14 Sen. Mike Fox (D), SD 16, closed the hearing on SJ 17.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:54:51

Heather Kellum, Secretary

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