

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 21, 2023 at 8:05 AM, 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. Jane Gillette (R)  
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)  
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)  
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Rep. Joe Read (R)  
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)  
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. Terry Falk (R)  
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Terry Moore (R)  
Rep. Matt Regier (R)  
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 220 03/16/2023

HB 407 03/16/2023

HB 445 03/17/2023

SB 70 03/17/2023

SB 417 03/21/2023

Executive Action:

HB 220 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 383 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 449 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 672 TO TABLE

SB 70

**HEARING ON HB 220 - Create select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition**

**Opening Statement:**

08:06:56 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 220, Create select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:07:40 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy

08:10:25 Rep. Falk and Rep, Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

08:11:25 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

08:12:25 Aimee Grmoljez, MDU Resources

08:13:28 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:13:56 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

08:16:50 Lionel Tapia, self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:18:05 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Council (MCC)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:18:35 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

08:19:04 Chris Puyear, NWMT

08:20:07 Rep. Terry Falk

08:20:54 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting and Rep. Bedey left the meeting.

08:21:08 Chris Puyear, NWMT

08:22:33 Rep. Connie Keogh

08:22:52 Chair Llew Jones

08:23:27 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

08:23:36 Rep. Mercer left the meeting.

08:25:02 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

08:25:17 Rep. Michele Binkley

08:26:12 Chris Puyear, NWMT

08:27:22 Rep. Fiona Nave

08:27:36 Chris Puyear, NWMT

08:29:29 Rep. Gillette and Rep. Schillinger left the meeting.

08:29:53 Rep. Paul Tuss

08:30:23 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

08:30:50 Rep. Joe Read

08:32:02 Chris Puyear, NWMT

08:32:55 Rep. Joe Read

08:34:00 Aimee Grmoljez. MDU Resources

08:36:52 Rep. Joe Read

08:37:12 Jason Brown, MCC

08:39:05 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

08:39:18 Chris Puyear, NWMT

08:41:03 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:41:28 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

08:42:16 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:42:25 Chris Puyear, NWMT

08:52:16 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:52:39 Anne Hedges, MEIC

**Closing Statement:**

08:54:56 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 220.

**HEARING ON SB 70 - Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program**

**Opening Statement:**

08:56:35 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 70, Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program.

**Discussion:**

08:57:00 Rep. Schillinger joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:59:56 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools (CAMPS)

09:01:53 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

09:03:19 Jennie Murnane-Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOE)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:04:38 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:04:59 Rep. Paul Tuss

09:05:30 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D

09:06:37 Jay Phillips, OPI

**Closing Statement:**

09:07:20 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, closed the hearing on SB 70.

**HEARING ON HB 407 - Provide for affordable housing abatements**

**Opening Statement:**

09:10:37 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 407, Provide for affordable housing abatements.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:18:04 Margaret MacDonald, Big Sky 55+

09:19:44 Tirza Asbell, Montana Women Vote

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:20:57 Bryce Kaatz, Property Assessment Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:21:19 Rep. Fiona Nave

09:21:45 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:24:21 Rep. Paul Tuss

09:25:13 Bryce Kaatz, DOR

09:25:57 Rep. Terry Falk

09:26:14 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:27:00 Rep. Read left the meeting.

09:32:37 Rep. Naarah Hastings

09:33:06 Bryce Kaatz, DOR

09:33:18 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:33:48 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:34:56 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

09:36:00 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 407.

**HEARING ON HB 445 - Establish mentoring program for new teachers**

**Opening Statement:**

09:39:25 Rep. Melissa Romano (D), HD 81, opened the hearing on HB 445, Establish mentoring program for new teachers.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230321APHa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:44:59 Doug Reisig, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools (CAMPS)

09:46:21 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

09:47:14 Jennie Murnane-Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOE)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:49:05 Shauna Lions, Director, check

09:49:24 Jay Phillips, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:49:48 Rep. Paul Tuss

09:50:21 Rep. Melissa Romano-D

09:53:54 Rep. Connie Keogh

09:54:09 Jennie Murnan-Butcher, MOE

09:54:30 Rep. Gillette joined the meeting.

09:55:12 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.

09:58:02 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:58:41 Rep. Melissa Romano-D  
10:00:28 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting and Rep. Schillinger left the meeting.  
10:00:56 Rep. Terry Falk  
10:01:29 Rep. Melissa Romano-D  
10:03:30 Rep. Fitzpatrick and Rep. Bedey joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

10:07:23 Rep. Melissa Romano (D), HD 81, closed the hearing on HB 445.

10:11:04 **Recessed**

15:49:26 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON SB 417 - Pay off bonded debt**

**Opening Statement:**

15:49:42 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 417, Pay off bonded debt.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:53:51 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:54:17 Sen. Brad Molnar-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:56:44 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, closed the hearing on SB 417.

15:58:02           **Recessed**

16:18:36           **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 220 - Create select committee on energy resource planning and acquisition**

16:18:52           **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 220 DO PASS.**

16:19:43           **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 220 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:20:04           Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

16:20:31           Rep. Moore, Rep. Regier absent at beginning of Executive Action.

16:21:13           Chair Llew Jones

16:21:41           Rep. Bill Mercer

16:22:07           Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:32:02           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:22:54           **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 220 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

10:32:02           **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 383 - Establish the Montana hunters and anglers community fund**

16:24:08           **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 383 DO PASS.**

16:24:27           **Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 383 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:26:55           Rep. Connie Keogh

10:32:02           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:27:32           **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 383 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

10:32:02           **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.  
Rep. Moore, Rep. Regier, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 449 - Provide for certified pediatric complex care assistant services**

16:29:05 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 449 DO PASS.**

16:29:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 449 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:30:04 Julie Johnson

16:30:37 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:31:01 Rep. Jane Gillette

16:31:14 Julie Johnson

10:32:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:32:20 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **HB 449 BE AMENDED.**

16:34:32 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Fiona Nave moved that **HB 449 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:34:54 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

16:35:24 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:36:13 Rep. David Bedey

16:36:54 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

16:37:27 Rep. Mike Hopkins

10:32:02 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, voting no.  
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

16:38:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 449 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:39:03 Rep. Jane Gillette

16:41:37 Rep. Joe Read

16:42:31 Rep. Bill Mercer

16:43:06 Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:32:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Read, Rep.

Regier, voting no.  
Rep. Moore, Rep. Regier, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 672 - Generally revise environmental protection laws**

- 16:45:40       **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 672 DO PASS.**
- 16:51:07       **Substitute Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 672 TO TABLE.**
- 10:32:02       **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 70 - Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program**

- 16:51:29       **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 70 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

- 16:51:56       Rep. Bill Mercer
- 10:32:02       **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Gillette, Rep. Mercer,  
Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, voting no.  
Rep. Moore, Rep. Regier, By Proxy
- 16:51:29       **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Melissa Romano
- 16:55:36       Vice Chair Caferro
- 16:55:47       **Committee Discussion:** exhibit
- 16:55:54       [EXHIBIT\(230321APHa2\)](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:58:26

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Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230321APHaad\)](#)