

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

Call to Order: Chair Paul Fielder-R, on March 21, 2023 at 8:02 AM, in 152

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Paul Fielder, Chair (R)
Rep. Mark Thane, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Tom Welch, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)
Rep. Dave Fern (D)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Staff Present: Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary
Megan Moore, 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 485 03/17/2023

HB 634 03/17/2023

HB 816 03/17/2023

HB 832 03/17/2023
SB 119 03/17/2023

Executive Action:

HB 485 PASS CONSIDERATION
HB 634 PASS CONSIDERATION

HEARING ON HB 832 - Provide tax credit for early childhood workforce

Opening Statement:

08:05:09 Rep. Melissa Romano (D), HD 81, opened the hearing on HB 832, Provide tax credit for early childhood workforce.

Discussion:

08:06:32 Rep. Sue Vinton joined the meeting.

08:07:17 Rep. Marilyn Marler joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

08:08:46 Brandi Thomas, Child Care Connections

08:09:24 Rep. Edward Butcher joined the meeting.

08:11:06 Caitlin Jenson, Zero to Five Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230321TAHa1\)](#)

08:15:06 Ella Smith, Montana Advocates for Children

08:16:20 Adam Jespersen, MT Nonprofit Association

08:17:32 Richard Halvorson, Self

08:21:28 Sheryl Hutzenbiler, Self

08:23:47 Meghan Ballenger, MT Child Care Resource and Referral

08:25:56 Scott Wolff, Great Falls Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:30:31 Aaron McNay, DOR

08:30:54 Jake Ford, DOR

Questions from Committee:

08:31:30 Rep. Jill Cohenour
08:31:38 Richard Halvorson
08:32:23 Rep. Jill Cohenour
08:32:29 Rep. Melissa Romano-D
08:33:47 Rep. Alice Buckley
08:34:13 Rep. Melissa Romano-D
08:35:09 Vice Chair Mark Thane
08:35:36 Aaron McNay, DOR
08:36:17 Rep. Marty Malone
08:36:31 Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five Montana

Closing Statement:

08:37:06 Rep. Melissa Romano (D), HD 81, closed the hearing on HB 832.

08:39:18 **Recessed**

08:47:30 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON SB 119 - Provide tribal property tax exemption to tribal members

Opening Statement:

08:47:59 Sen. Susan Webber (D), SD 8, opened the hearing on SB 119, Provide tribal property tax exemption to tribal members.

Discussion:

08:49:56 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen joined the meeting.
08:50:05 Rep. Edward Butcher joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

08:52:15 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

08:53:56 Keegan Medrano, ACLU of Montana
08:56:21 Rep. Joshua Kassmier joined the meeting.
08:57:23 Jade Bahr, Montana Budget and Policy Center
09:01:02 Cherilyn DeVries, Montana Human Rights Network
09:02:15 Sue Cliff, Self
09:04:23 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen joined the meeting.
09:04:40 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Opponent Testimony:

09:06:27 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:07:47 Tiffany Pouliot, DOR

Questions from Committee:

09:08:51 Rep. Alice Buckley
09:09:09 Sen. Susan Webber-D
09:11:41 Rep. Russel Miner
09:12:35 Sen. Susan Webber-D
09:14:16 Rep. Edward Butcher
09:14:22 Rep. Sue Vinton joined the meeting.
09:14:50 Sen. Susan Webber-D
09:16:20 Rep. Alice Buckley left the meeting.
09:17:23 Rep. Melissa Romano left the meeting.
09:17:57 Rep. Edward Butcher
09:18:07 Mr. Rittal, MACO
09:19:31 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen
09:20:02 Sen. Susan Webber-D

09:22:49 Rep. Marilyn Marler
09:23:05 Jordan Thompson, SKC
09:25:10 Rep. Tanner Smith
09:25:38 Sen. Susan Webber-D
09:26:01 Rep. Sue Vinton
09:26:26 Sen. Susan Webber-D

Closing Statement:

09:27:07 Sen. Susan Webber (D), SD 8, closed the hearing on SB 119.

HEARING ON HB 485 - Revise tax rates for stripper oil production

Opening Statement:

09:29:30 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 485, Revise tax rates for stripper oil production.

Proponent Testimony:

09:31:11 Patrick Montalban, Montalban Oil and Gas Operations, Inc.

[EXHIBIT\(230321TAHa2\)](#)

09:41:06 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

09:41:54 Rep. George Nikolakakos left the meeting.

09:42:06 Mac McDermott, McDermott LLC

09:43:14 Matt Enneberg, Enneberg Oil and Gas

Opponent Testimony:

09:44:14 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties

09:48:30 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

09:50:14 Daniel Farr, North South East Rural Schools

09:53:48 Gordon Oelkers, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties

09:55:39 Shane Gorder, Richland County Commission

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:58:05 Tyler Flaig, DOR

09:58:20 Jared Isom, DOR

Questions from Committee:

09:58:52 Rep. Marty Malone

09:59:14 Jason Rittal, MACO

Closing Statement:

10:00:40 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 485.

HEARING ON HB 634 - Generally revise oil and gas laws

Opening Statement:

10:02:13 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 634, Generally revise oil and gas laws.

Proponent Testimony:

10:03:21 Patrick Montalban, Montalban Oil and Gas Operations, Inc

[EXHIBIT\(230321TAHa3\)](#)

10:09:28 Mac McDermott, McDermott LLC

10:10:23 Margaret Bird, Advocates for School Trust Lands

Opponent Testimony:

10:12:08 Amanda Kaster, Department of Natural Resource Conservation

10:15:02 Tom Butler, Self

10:15:30 Rep. Joshua Kassmier joined the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:29:36 Patrick Montalban
10:30:19 R. Knudsen
10:31:07 Patrick Montalban
10:32:03 Vice Chair Mark Thane
10:32:14 Tyler Flaig
10:33:19 Rep. Jill Cohenour
10:33:26 Richard Iversen
10:34:43 Chair Paul Fielder
10:35:14 Rep. Marty Malone
10:35:23 Tyler Flaig

Closing Statement:

10:36:34 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 634.

HEARING ON HB 816 - Revise distribution of surplus revenue through tax rebates

Opening Statement:

10:38:10 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 816,
Revise distribution of surplus revenue through tax rebates.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:39:32 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:41:05 Aaron McNay, DOR

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

10:41:50 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 816.

10:43:23 **Recessed**

11:06:34 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 485 - Revise tax rates for stripper oil production

11:06:49 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom Welch moved that **HB 485 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:07:40 Rep. Kassmier

11:07:54 Rep. Jill Cohenour

11:08:07 Megan Moore

11:09:11 **Motion:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved that **HB 485 BE AMENDED.**

12:49:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:10:14 **Motion:** Rep. Rhonda Knudsen moved that **HB 485 PASS CONSIDERATION.**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 634 - Generally revise oil and gas laws

11:10:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom Welch moved that **HB 634 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:11:16 Kassmier

11:11:46 **Motion:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved that **HB 634 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:12:53 Rep. Jill Cohenour

11:13:07 R. Knudsen

12:49:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:13:19 **Motion:** Rep. Rhonda Knudsen moved that **HB 634 PASS CONSIDERATION.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:15:00

Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary

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