

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 23, 2023 at 8:01 AM, in Room 102

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Rep. Mary Caferro, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Bob Keenan, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. David Bedey (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (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 835 03/17/2023

HB 839 03/20/2023

SB 29 03/21/2023

HB 526 03/23/2023

HB 562 03/23/2023

HB 393 03/23/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 835 - Create Medicaid and 24/7 contingency fund

Opening Statement:

08:03:25 Vice Chair Bob Keenan (R), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 835, Create Medicaid and 24/7 contingency fund.

Proponent Testimony:

08:04:21 Ryan Evans, Assistant Director, Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

08:08:24 Charlie Brereton, Director, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:12:02 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, and Rep. Hopkins joined the meeting.

08:16:27 Rep. Mercer joined, the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

08:24:15 Joel Peden, Montana Independent Living Project, (MILP) Summit Independent Living Center, Missoula

08:25:05 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy, and Rep. Read joined the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:34:15 Gene Hermanson, Chief Financial Officer, Medicaid, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:34:34 Kim Aiken, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:34:46 William Evo, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

08:35:07 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:35:54 Ryan Evans, OBPP

[EXHIBIT\(230323APHa1\)](#)

08:39:15 Rep. Read and Rep. Bedey left the meeting.

08:40:23 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:40:42 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

08:42:01 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:42:45 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

08:47:25 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:48:02 Ryan Evans, OBPP

08:50:31 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

08:50:52 Joel Peden, MILP

08:52:44 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:53:13 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

08:55:14 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:55:40 Ryan Evans, OBPP

08:55:59 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:56:35 Rep. Bob Keenan-R

08:57:00 Rep. Jim Hamilton

08:57:14 Rep. Bob Keenan-R

09:03:03 Rep. Nave left the meeting.

09:03:10 Ryan Evans, OBPP

09:07:20 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:08:20 Rep. Hellegaard joined the meeting.

09:11:26 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

09:11:37 Ryan Evans, OBPP

09:16:24 Rep. Hopkins and Rep. Mercer left the meeting.

09:17:30 Rep. Terry Moore

09:17:58 Ryan Evans, OBPP

09:18:51 Rep. Terry Moore

09:19:18 Rep. Windy Boy and Rep. Bedey joined the meeting.

09:20:08 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

09:24:18 Rep. Paul Tuss

09:24:51 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

09:27:19 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

09:27:36 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

09:34:54 Rep. Connie Keogh

09:35:51 Joel Peden, MILP

09:41:33 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:43:01 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

09:47:15 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter and Rep. Mercer left the meeting.

09:48:47 Ryan Evans, OBPP

Closing Statement:

09:50:07 Vice Chair Bob Keenan (R), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 835.

HEARING ON HB 839 - Fund the Great Falls fire training center

Opening Statement:

09:51:37 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 839, Fund the Great Falls fire training center.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230323APHa2\)](#)

09:53:13 Rep. Hamilton left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

09:55:17 Jeremy Jones, Fire Chief, City of Great Falls

10:01:59 Jesse Slaughter, Cascade County something

10:07:10 Clint Bishop, Health Safety and Security Manager, Calumet Montana Refining, Montana Renewables

10:10:02 Eric Hinebauch, Great Falls City Commission

10:10:33 Katie Brewer, Community Risk Reduction Manager, Great Falls Fire Rescue, City Emergency Manager

[EXHIBIT\(230323APHa3\)](#)

10:13:36 Andy Ekblad, Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters

10:14:07 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

10:14:50 Steve Gist, HD 25

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:16:53 Russ Katherman, Department of Administration (DOA)

10:17:34 Delila Bruno, Administrator, Disaster and Emergency Services Division (DES)

Questions from Committee:

10:18:01 Vice Chair Keenan assumed the gavel.

10:18:03 Rep. David Bedey

10:18:32 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe-R

10:19:25 Rep. David Bedey

10:19:56 Rep. Gist, HD 25

10:20:33 Delila Bruno, DES

10:22:05 Rep. Bedey

10:22:15 Delila Bruno, DES
10:22:53 Rep. Bedey
10:23:16 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe-R
10:23:50 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

10:25:32 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 839.

Discussion:

10:26:35 Rep. Stewart Peregoy and Windy Boy left the meeting, Rep. Nave and Rep. Hamilton joined the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 29 - Increase and Extend the PERS Supplemental Employer Contribution

Opening Statement:

10:29:05 Sen. Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 29, Increase and Extend the PERS Supplemental Employer Contribution.

Discussion:

10:30:19 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.
10:31:23 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

10:32:01 Dore Schwinden, Montana Public Employee Retirement Association (MPERA)
10:32:55 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:34:26 Rep. Jim Hamilton
10:35:10 Jason Rittal, MACo
10:35:41 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
10:36:14 Rep. Terry Moore
10:39:40 Vice Chair Keenan joined the meeting.
10:40:46 Rep. Fiona Nave
10:41:18 Rep. Terry Moore
10:42:05 Chair Llew Jones
10:42:34 Dore Schwinden, MPERA
10:44:25 Rep. Bedey left the meeting.
10:46:48 Rep. Jim Hamilton

Closing Statement:

10:49:28 Sen. Wendy McKamey (R), SD 19, closed the hearing on SB 29.
10:49:46 **Recessed**
14:53:59 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 526 - Repeal state tax on social security income

Opening Statement:

14:54:26 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 526, Repeal state tax on social security income.

Opponent Testimony:

14:59:47 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)
15:02:10 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:03:02 Aaron McNay, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

15:03:38 Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:05:17 Rep. Paul Fielder-R
15:10:21 Rep. Terry Falk

Closing Statement:

15:10:52 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), HD 13, closed the hearing on HB 526.

HEARING ON HB 562 - Authorize establishment of community choice schools

Opening Statement:

15:15:36 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 562, Authorize establishment of community choice schools.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230323APHa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:17:54 Trish Schreiber, self
15:21:29 Robin Mohs, self
15:22:30 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity
15:23:08 Anna Shchemelinin, self
15:26:04 Chip Lindenlaub, self
15:28:42 Russ Simnick, Senior Director, National Alliance for Charter Schools (NACS)
15:29:44 Lisa-Melina Pyron, self

Opponent Testimony:

15:33:27 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools (CAMPS)

[EXHIBIT\(230323APHa5\)](#)

15:40:53 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:42:10 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

15:44:15 Jenny Murnan-Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOE)

15:47:35 Tal Goldin, Supervising Attorney, Education Employment and Benefits, Disability Rights Montana (DRM)

15:49:46 Mindy Ferrell, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:52:28 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:52:44 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BOE)

Questions from Committee:

15:53:24 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

15:54:07 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

15:55:47 Rep. Terry Falk

15:56:20 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

15:58:43 Rep. Paul Tuss

15:59:32 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

16:00:32 Trish Schreiber

16:02:57 Rep. Paul Tuss

16:04:05 Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA

16:05:49 Rep. David Bedey

16:07:36 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

16:09:00 Rep. David Bedey

16:09:12 McCall Flynn, BOPE

16:09:50 Rep. Naarah Hastings

16:10:08	Rep. Sue Vinton-R
16:10:20	Trish Schreiber
16:12:14	Rep. Fiona Nave
16:13:03	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:17:21	Rep. Fiona Nave
16:17:39	Rep. David Bedey
16:18:12	Rep. Fiona Nave
16:18:40	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:19:02	Rep. Fiona Nave
16:19:14	Paul Taylor OPI
16:20:37	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:21:48	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:23:51	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:24:13	McCall Flynn, BOPE
16:26:11	Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:27:36	Tal Goldin, DRM
16:30:03	Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
16:31:42	Amanda Curtis, MFPE
16:33:53	Rep. Connie Keogh
16:34:36	Amanda Curtis, MFPE
16:36:09	Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
16:38:08	Paul Taylor OPI
16:44:47	Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
16:45:03	Jenny Murnan-Butcher, MOE

16:50:07	Paul Taylor OPI
16:52:54	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:53:48	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:54:10	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:54:31	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:54:44	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:54:54	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:55:37	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:55:54	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:56:01	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:56:16	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:57:26	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:57:52	Lance Melton, CAMPS, MSBA
16:58:05	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:58:27	Paul Taylor OPI
16:59:21	Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:59:38	Paul Taylor OPI
17:00:39	Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:00:58	Paul Taylor OPI
17:02:00	Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:02:16	Paul Taylor OPI
17:03:22	Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:03:37	Paul Taylor OPI
17:04:24	Rep. Terry Falk

17:05:08 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

17:05:44 Rep. Terry Falk

Closing Statement:

17:06:44 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 562.

HEARING ON HB 393 - Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act

Opening Statement:

17:09:07 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 393, Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act.

Proponent Testimony:

17:10:37 Dylan Klapmeier, Education Policy Advisor, Montana State Education Agency

17:12:04 Trish Schreiber, self

17:13:44 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity (AFP)

17:14:38 Chip Lindenlaub, self

Opponent Testimony:

17:15:19 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools (CAMPS)

[EXHIBIT\(230323APHa6\)](#)

17:21:30 Tal Goldin, Disability Rights Montana (DRM)

[EXHIBIT\(230323APHa7\)](#)

17:32:00 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

17:33:19 Jennie Murnan-Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans for Organized Education (MOE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:35:31 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

17:36:06 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:37:20 Tal Goldin, DRM
17:38:41 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:39:20 Paul Taylor OPI

Closing Statement:

17:42:57 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 393.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:44:50

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230323APHaad\)](#)