

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 28, 2023 at 8:03 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. Terry Falk (R)  
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)  
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)  
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)  
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)  
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)  
Rep. Terry Moore (R)  
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)  
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)  
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Mary Caferro (D)  
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
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 883 03/24/2023

HB 891 03/24/2023

HB 899 03/27/2023

Executive Action:

HB 883 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 669 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 462 TO TABLE

HB 445 TO TABLE

HB 839 DO PASS AS AMENDED

**HEARING ON HB 899 - Provide funding to alleviate impact of nursing home closures**

**Opening Statement:**

08:05:13 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 899, Provide funding to alleviate impact of nursing home closures.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:07:21 Margaret MacDonald, Big Sky 55+

08:08:57 Rose Hughes, Executive Director, Montana Healthcare Association (MHA)

08:10:46 Claire Marshall, Alzheimers Association

08:11:14 Hannah Pate, Montana Women Vote

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:12:12 Rep. Bill Mercer

08:14:19 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

08:14:56 Rep. Jane Gillette

08:15:25 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter and Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

08:15:42 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

08:21:00 Rep. Naarah Hastings

08:21:47 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

08:21:48 Rep. Mercer left the meeting.

08:22:54 Rep. Jim Hamilton

08:24:45 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

08:25:23 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

08:28:24 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

08:29:28 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.  
08:31:58 Quinn Holzer  
08:33:11 Rep. Jane Gillette  
08:34:19 Rep. Paul Tuss-D  
08:35:00 Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

08:35:17 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 899.

**HEARING ON HB 891 - Provide one-time emergency stabilization payments to nursing homes**

**Opening Statement:**

08:36:30 Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R), HD 69, opened the hearing on HB 891, Provide one-time emergency stabilization payments to nursing homes.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:42:14 Rose Hughes, Executive Director, Montana Healthcare Association (MHA)  
[EXHIBIT\(230328APHa1\)](#)  
08:50:06 Paul Teagle, Regional Director of Operations, The Goodman Group Nursing Home Administrator  
[EXHIBIT\(230328APHa2\)](#)  
08:55:29 Wes Thompson, Administrator, Valley View Home  
08:58:41 Margaret MacDonald, Big Sky 55+  
08:59:42 Claire Marshall, Alzheimers Association  
09:00:06 David Trost, CEO, St. Johns United  
09:01:29 Darcel Vaughn, Gallatin Rest Home  
09:05:59 Jason Cronk, CEO, Immanuel Lutheran Communities  
09:08:20 Paula Small-Plenty, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:11:06 Barb Smith, Administrator, Senior and Long-Term Care Division,  
Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:11:39 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:11:51 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.

09:12:18 Wes Thompson, Valley View Home

09:13:03 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:14:17 Paul Teagle, The Goodman Group

09:16:43 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

09:17:09 Wes Thompson, Valley View Home

09:17:44 Rep. Fiona Nave

09:18:18 Wes Thompson, Valley View Home

09:20:12 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

09:20:32 Rose Hughes, MHA

09:24:07 Rep. Jane Gillette

09:24:56 Barb Smith, DPHHS

09:26:15 Rep. Jane Gillette

09:28:33 Wes Thompson, Valley View Home

09:29:10 Rep. Jane Gillette

09:29:38 Jason Cronk, St. Johns United

09:29:58 Darcel Vaughn, Gallatin Rest Home

09:30:29 Paul Teagle, The Goodman Group

09:30:59 Josh Poulette, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

09:37:30 Rep. David Bedey

09:37:38 Rep. Fitzpatrick and Rep. Tuss left the meeting.

09:38:53 Rep. Carlson, HD 69

09:42:01 Rep. David Bedey

09:42:14 Rose Hughes, MHA

09:48:17 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

09:48:32 Rose Hughes, MHA

09:49:23 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

09:49:52 Rep. Carlson, HD 69

09:50:02 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:50:07 Rep. Fitzpatrick and Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

09:52:26 Barb Smith, DPHHS

09:57:31 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:58:08 Paul Teagle, The Goodman Group

10:00:03 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

10:00:36 Rose Hughes, MHA

10:01:55 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

10:03:14 Rep. Carlson, HD 69

10:03:43 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

10:03:58 Barb Smith, DPHHS

10:04:50 Rep. Jane Gillette

10:06:04 Rep. Falk and Rep. Read Left the meeting.

10:06:17 Rep. Tuss joined the meeting.

10:08:49 Rep. Bill Mercer  
10:09:27 Rep. Carlson, HD 69  
10:11:56 Rep. Jerry Schillinger  
10:12:44 Rose Hughes, MHA  
10:15:28 Rep. David Bedey  
10:15:52 Rose Hughes, MHA  
10:21:10 Rep. Naarah Hastings  
10:21:35 Rose Hughes, MHA  
10:21:58 Rep. John Fitzpatrick  
10:22:09 Vice Chair Keenan left the meeting.  
10:22:30 Rep. Bedey left the meeting.  
10:22:47 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
10:23:50 Rose Hughes, MHA  
10:24:46 Rep. Windy Boy left the meeting.  
10:26:44 Wes Thompson, Valley View Home  
10:27:37 Chair Llew Jones  
10:28:02 Barb Smith, DPHHS  
10:31:52 Rep. Read joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

10:28:23 Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R), HD 69, closed the hearing on HB 891.

**HEARING ON HB 883 - Generally revise state finance**

**Opening Statement:**

10:37:57 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 883, Generally revise state finance.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230328APHa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230328APHa4\)](#)

10:38:05 Vice Chair Caferro assumed the gavel.  
10:40:42 Rep. Hopkins joined the meeting.  
10:40:58 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy and Rep. Mercer left the meeting.  
10:43:31 Rep. Falk joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:45:03 Amanda Caster, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

10:45:51 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
10:46:30 Chair Llew Jones  
10:47:06 Rep. Terry Moore  
10:47:45 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
10:49:09 Chair Llew Jones  
10:51:17 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
10:51:18 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.  
10:52:00 Chair Llew Jones  
10:52:25 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter  
10:52:45 Amanda Caster, DNRC  
10:53:36 Rep. Fiona Nave

10:54:12 Rep. Jones  
10:55:42 Rep. Nave  
10:56:15 Amanda Caster, DNRC  
10:58:00 Wyatt Frampton, Deputy Administrator, Forestry Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
10:59:06 Rep. Fiona Nave  
10:59:45 Rep. Jim Hamilton  
11:00:24 Rep. Jones  
11:01:23 Rep. Jerry Schillinger  
11:02:20 Rep. Jones

**Closing Statement:**

11:05:59 Chair Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 883.  
11:08:32 **Recessed**  
11:44:40 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 883 - Generally revise state finance**

11:47:37 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 883 DO PASS.**  
11:47:57 **Motion:** Rep. David Bedey moved that **HB 883 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:48:13 Chair Llew Jones  
11:48:21 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter  
11:48:49 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.  
11:47:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
11:49:10 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 883 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
11:49:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 669 - Revise laws related to allocation of marijuana tax revenues**

11:49:43 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 669 DO PASS.**

11:50:05 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **HB 669 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:53:09 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

11:54:13 Rep. David Bedey

11:56:00 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:50:05 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

11:58:14 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 669 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:58:19 Rep. Falk and Rep. Bedey left the meeting.

11:58:50 Julie Johnson

11:59:20 Rep. Bill Mercer

12:00:56 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

12:02:08 Rep. Fiona Nave

12:02:50 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:58:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 462 - Revise distribution of marijuana revenues**

12:07:21 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 462 DO PASS.**

12:07:57 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 462 TO TABLE.**

12:07:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 20 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.  
Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 445 - Establish mentoring program for new teachers**

12:09:10 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 445 DO PASS.**

12:09:13 **Motion:** Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter moved that **HB 445 BE AMENDED.**

12:09:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12:10:33 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 445 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

12:10:48 Rep. Connie Keogh

12:11:59 Rep. Terry Moore

12:12:00 Rep. Bedey joined the meeting.

12:14:12 Rep. Jane Gillette

12:14:50 **Motion:** Rep. Jane Gillette moved that **HB 445 TO TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

12:15:04 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

12:18:07 Rep. Windy Boy and Rep. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.

12:14:50 **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.  
Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 839 - Fund the Great Falls fire training center**

12:17:53 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 839 DO PASS.**

12:18:27 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 839 BE AMENDED.**

12:18:27 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12:19:55 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 839 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

12:19:55 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.  
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:22:10

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Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230328APHaad\)](#)