

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 3:04 PM, in 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. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)

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 648 03/27/2023

HB 901 03/25/2023

HB 916 03/25/2023

HB 917 03/25/2023

Executive Action:

HB 901 TO TABLE

HEARING ON HB 648 - Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program

Opening Statement:

15:05:52 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 648, Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program.

Discussion:

15:05:56 Rep. Schillinger, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Moore, Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

15:08:30 Todd O'Hair, President, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:10:16 Rebecca Meyers, Billings Chamber of Commerce

15:10:50 Brad Griffin, President, Montana Retail Association, Montana Restaurant Association, Montana Equipment Dealers, Montana Tire Dealers,

15:11:20 Melissa Lewis, Montana Petroleum Association, Treasure State Resource Association

15:12:22 Amy Nerison, Sibanye-Stillwater

15:13:00 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

15:14:47 Katelyn Jensen, Zero to Five Montana

15:16:26 Lance Four Star, Director, Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC)

[EXHIBIT\(230328APHb1\)](#)

15:16:57 Rep. Fitzpatrick, joined the meeting.

15:17:38 Ella Smith, Montana Advocates for Children (MAC)

15:18:43 Kami Ryles, Assistant Director, Family Services Supervisor, Childcare Connections

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:21:08 Erica Johnston, Executive Director, Human Services, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

15:21:43 Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:22:06 Rep. Alice Buckley-D
15:25:31 Heather O'Loughlin, MBPC
15:26:39 Rep. Jane Gillette
15:29:06 Erica Johnston, DPHHS
15:33:29 Rep. Read joined the meeting.
15:35:50 Rep. Bill Mercer
15:36:20 Rep. Alice Buckley-D
15:36:39 Erica Johnston, DPHHS
15:40:08 Rep. Bill Mercer
15:40:33 Rep. Alice Buckley-D
15:41:24 Rep. David Bedey
15:42:57 Erica Johnston, DPHHS
15:44:25 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
15:45:53 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

15:51:00 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, closed the hearing on HB 648.

HEARING ON HB 901 - Provide an appropriation to continue the emergency rental assistance program

Opening Statement:

15:53:02 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 901, Provide an appropriation to continue the emergency rental assistance program.

Discussion:

15:53:18 Rep. Mercer left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

15:56:35 Lance Four Star, Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC)
15:58:08 Tina Morin, Director, Butte Salvation Army
16:03:06 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU Montana
16:03:56 Kathleen Chavis, self
16:05:11 Timothy Brost, self
16:05:55 Rep. Falk, left the meeting.
16:06:18 Ethan Hanley, University of Montana
16:07:15 Jobyna McCarthy, self

Opponent Testimony:

16:08:52 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)
16:10:43 Rep. Mercer, joined the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:16:00 Melissa Higgins, AARP Housing, Department of Commerce (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

16:16:28 Rep. Michele Binkley
16:16:59 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
16:17:30 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:18:21 Melissa Higgins, ARPA
16:23:44 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:23:48 rep. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.
16:24:16 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
16:24:34 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:25:12 Melissa Higgins, ARPA
16:30:54 Rep. Naarah Hastings

16:30:59 Melissa Higgins, ARPA
16:32:15 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
16:33:01 Tina Morin, Butte Salvation Army

Closing Statement:

16:34:11 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, closed the hearing on HB 901.

**HEARING ON HB 916 - Authorize transfers and other necessary measures to implement
HB2-Section D**

Opening Statement:

16:35:15 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 916, Authorize transfers and other necessary measures to implement HB2-Section D.

Proponent Testimony:

16:41:45 Harley Harris, Program Manager, Montana Natural Resource Damage Program
16:43:14 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
16:47:08 Benjamin Halverson, City of Billings

Opponent Testimony:

16:48:47 Terry Wadsworth, Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board
[EXHIBIT\(230328APHb2\)](#)
16:49:06 Rep. Falk ,Rep. Bedey, Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.
16:51:08 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (MPMCSA)
16:52:28 Rep. Gillette, left the meeting.
16:54:00 John Monahan, Chairman, Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board (MTRCB)
16:56:52 Earl Allen, Marketing Manager, Sinclair Stations
17:01:35 Scott Curry, President, Montana Petroleum Marketers Convenience Store Association (MPMCSA)

17:03:38 Rep. Gillette, joined the meeting.

17:05:04 Dirk Cooper, Montana Petroleum Marketers (MPMCSA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:07:55 Amy Steinmetz, Administrator, Waste Management and Remediation Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

17:08:42 Natalie Smitham, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Corrections (DOC)

17:08:52 Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator, Judicial Branch

17:09:04 Brett Schandelson, Director, Office of State Public Defender (OPD)

Questions from Committee:

17:09:32 Rep. David Bedey

17:09:42 Amy Steinmetz, DEQ

17:11:30 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

17:11:53 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

17:15:03 Rep. Fiona Nave

17:15:55 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

17:18:21 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

Closing Statement:

17:20:03 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 916.

**HEARING ON HB 917 - Authorize transfers and other necessary measure to implement
HB 2 section B**

Opening Statement:

17:20:34 Vice Chair Bob Keenan (R), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 917, Authorize transfers and other necessary measure to implement HB 2 section B.

Discussion:

17:20:57 Rep. Regier joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

17:28:40 Rose Hughes, Director, Montana Healthcare Association (MHA)

[EXHIBIT\(230328APHb3\)](#)

17:36:35 Paul Teagle, The Goodman Group

[EXHIBIT\(230328APHb4\)](#)

17:44:55 Darcel Vaughn, Gallatin Rest Home

17:45:22 Rep. Moore,, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Read, Rep. Stewart Peregoy and Rep. Windy Boy left the meeting.

17:48:39 Jason Cronk, President, Immanuel Lutheran Communities

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:50:13 Gene Hermanson, Chief Financial Officer, Medicaid, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

17:50:29 Erica Johnston, Director, Human Services, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

17:50:54 Rep. David Bedey

17:52:29 Rose Hughes, MHA

17:53:01 Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

17:56:21 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:57:34 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

17:59:33 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

18:02:06 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

18:08:56 Rep. Gillette

18:11:04 Rep. Jim Hamilton
18:11:48 Rep. Bob Keenan-R
18:11:57 Rep. Jane Gillette
18:13:26 Rep. Jim Hamilton
18:16:51 Paul Teagle, The Goodman Group
18:17:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton
18:19:34 Paul Teagle, The Goodman Group
18:21:16 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
18:22:22 Erica Johnston, DPHHS
18:23:07 Rep. Jane Gillette

Closing Statement:

18:23:35 Vice Chair Bob Keenan (R), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 917.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 901 - Provide an appropriation to continue the emergency rental assistance program

18:24:59 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 901 DO PASS.**
15:15:10 **Vote:** Motion failed 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 yes.
Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy
18:26:28 **Motion:** Chair Llew Jones moved that **HB 901 TO TABLE.**
15:15:10 **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

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:28:59

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

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