

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

Call to Order: Chair Fred Anderson-R, on March 29, 2023 at 3:35 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)

Staff Present: Rose Harmon, Secretary
Amanda Persons, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Laura Sankey Keip, 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 888 03/27/2023
HB 913 03/28/2023
HB 944 03/29/2023
HB 949 03/28/2023

Executive Action:

HB 888 DO PASS
HB 913 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 944 DO PASS
HB 949 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 837 TO TABLE

HB 863 TO TABLE
HB 875 TO TABLE

15:36:20 Rep. Essmann has left

HEARING ON HB 888 - Support community colleges in addressing immediate workforce needs

Opening Statement:

15:36:26 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, opened the hearing on HB 888, Support community colleges in addressing immediate workforce needs.

Proponent Testimony:

15:37:58 Aiden Myhre, Dawson, Miles City, and Flathead Valley Community Colleges (MT Comm Colleges)

15:40:40 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:42:03 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:42:45 Barry Houser, Marketing and Communications Director, Montana Contractor's Association (MCA)

15:47:17 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association

15:49:25 Jane Karas, President, Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC)

15:50:50 Justin Villmer, President, Dawson Community College (Dawson CC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:52:49 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:53:22 Aiden Myhre, MT Comm Colleges

15:54:31 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

15:54:56 Jane Karas, FVCC
15:56:14 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
15:56:49 Justin Villmer, Dawson CC
15:57:36 Rep. Mark Thane
15:58:10 Rep. Amy Regier-R
15:58:24 Jane Karas, FVCC

Closing Statement:

15:59:36 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, closed the hearing on HB 888.

HEARING ON HB 913 - Revise school library collection selection and reconsideration processes

Opening Statement:

16:00:07 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 913, Revise school library collection selection and reconsideration processes.

Proponent Testimony:

16:05:23 Emily Dean, Director of Advocacy, Montana School Boards Association, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
16:07:31 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana (SAM), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
16:08:14 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
16:08:54 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association (MLA)
16:09:35 Rep. Brandon Ler left the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

16:10:11 Elsie Arntzen, Montana State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent)

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:13:08 Becky Belling, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

16:13:44 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
16:15:49 Rep. Brad Barker-R
16:22:15 Rep. Mark Thane
16:23:13 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
16:26:16 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
16:26:41 Rob Watson, SAM
16:28:06 Rep. Melissa Romano
16:29:20 Rep. Brad Barker-R
16:29:44 Rep. Eric Matthews
16:30:19 Rep. Brad Barker-R
16:30:49 Rep. Eric Matthews
16:31:15 Rob Watson;, SAM
16:33:32 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe left the meeting.
16:34:05 Rep. Lee Deming
16:35:39 Rep. Brad Barker-R

Closing Statement:

16:35:51 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, closed the hearing on HB 913.

HEARING ON HB 944 - Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program

Opening Statement:

16:36:35 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 944, Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program.

Proponent Testimony:

- 16:41:08 Aiden Myhre, Dawson, Miles City, and Flathead Valley Community Colleges (MT Comm Colleges)MT Comm Colleges
- 16:41:55 Maggie Bell, Montana Associated Students, Montana University System (MAS)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 16:43:03 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner, Montana Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

Questions from Committee:

- 16:43:23 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
- 16:43:44 Rep. Paul Tuss-D
- 16:44:05 Chair Fred Anderson
- 16:47:15 Rep. James Bergstrom
- 16:47:34 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

Closing Statement:

- 16:49:11 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 944.

Discussion:

- 16:50:07 Chair Anderson passed the gavel to Vice Chair Reksten.

HEARING ON HB 949 - Generally revise education laws related to data governance

Opening Statement:

- 16:50:35 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 949, Generally revise education laws related to data governance.

Discussion:

- 16:50:24 Chair Fred Anderson left the meeting.
- 16:54:07 Chair Fred Anderson joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

- 16:54:18 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana (SAM), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
- 16:58:12 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner, Montana Office of Commissioner of Higher Education

Opponent Testimony:

- 17:01:25 Elsie Arntzen, Montana State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent)

[EXHIBIT\(230329EDHa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230329EDHa2\)](#)

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 17:06:58 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

Questions from Committee:

- 17:07:26 Rep. Lee Deming
- 17:07:46 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent
- 17:08:23 Rep. Melissa Romano
- 17:08:39 Rep. David Bedey-R
- 17:13:59 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
- 17:14:32 Misty Ann Gilles, DOA
- 17:16:32 Rep. Mark Thane
- 17:16:59 Rep. David Bedey-R

Closing Statement:

- 17:17:37 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 949.

Discussion:

- 17:20:40 Rep. Sherry Essmann left the meeting.

- 17:20:43 **Recessed**

17:50:18 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 888 - Support community colleges in addressing immediate workforce needs

17:50:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 888 DO PASS.**

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 913 - Revise school library collection selection and reconsideration processes

17:52:12 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 913 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:52:30 Rep. Melissa Romano

17:53:12 **Motion:** Rep. Melissa Romano moved that **HB 913 BE AMENDED.**

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:54:12 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 913 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting no.
Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 944 - Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program

17:56:04 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 944 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:56:30 Rep. Eric Matthews

17:56:48 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, voting no.
Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 949 - Generally revise education laws related to data governance

17:58:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 949 DO PASS.**

- 17:58:53 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 949 BE AMENDED.**
- 09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting no.
Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, By Proxy
- 18:01:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 949 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

- 18:01:01 Rep. Mark Thane
- 18:01:26 Chair Fred Anderson
- 09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting no.
Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 837 - Require curriculum transparency in K-12 education

- 18:02:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 837 DO PASS.**
- 18:03:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 837 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 18:05:21 Vice Chair Linda Reksten
- 18:06:00 Rep. Mark Thane
- 09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion failed 8 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Bergstrom, Rep. Deming, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting yes.
Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, By Proxy
- 18:07:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 837 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

- 18:09:20 Rep. Mark Thane
- 18:11:11 Rep. Mark Thane
- 18:15:06 Rep. Eric Matthews
- 09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion failed 9 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting yes.
Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, By Proxy
- 18:17:24 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Eric Matthews moved that **HB 837 TO TABLE.**
- 09:16:12 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 8 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Essmann, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, voting no.
Rep. Essmann, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 863 - Fund school meals for all students

18:19:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 863 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:19:41 Rep. Melissa Romano

18:21:08 Chair Fred Anderson

18:22:24 Rep. Eric Matthews

18:22:52 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion failed 9 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Matthews, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting yes.
Rep. Running Wolf, By Proxy

18:26:55 **Motion:** Rep. Melissa Romano moved that **HB 863 TO TABLE.**

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Matthews, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 875 - Establishing the school mental health promotion pilot program

18:27:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Reksten moved that **HB 875 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:28:09 Rep. Melissa Romano

18:29:16 Rep. Eric Matthews

18:29:47 Chair Fred Anderson

18:30:10 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

18:30:21 Rep. Melissa Romano

18:33:20 Vice Chair Linda Reksten

18:33:43 Rep. Mark Thane

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Anderson, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Romano, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Thane, voting yes.
Rep. Running Wolf, By Proxy

18:36:21 **Motion:** Rep. Mark Thane moved that **HB 875 TO TABLE.**

09:16:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Matthews, voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:37:17

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230329EDHaad\)](#)