

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

Call to Order: Chair Paul Fielder-R, on March 29, 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. Brad Barker (R)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)
Rep. Dave Fern (D)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. George Nikolakakos (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Alice Buckley (D)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)

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 861 03/23/2023

HB 870 03/23/2023

HB 881 03/23/2023

HB 912 03/25/2023
HB 925 03/27/2023
HB 926 03/27/2023
HB 931 03/27/2023
HB 943 03/27/2023

Executive Action:

HB 819 TO TABLE
HB 857 TO TABLE
HB 860 TO TABLE
HB 884 TO TABLE
HB 906 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 911 TO TABLE
HB 634 TO TABLE

HEARING ON HB 861 - Provide business property tax exemption during state of emergency or disaster

Opening Statement:

08:05:33 Rep. Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB 861, Provide business property tax exemption during state of emergency or disaster.

Proponent Testimony:

08:07:21 Jedediah Hinkle, Representative HD 68

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:10:29 Robin Rude, DOR

Questions from Committee:

08:11:06 Rep. Dave Fern

08:11:36 Robin Rude

08:13:05 Rep. Brad Barker

08:13:35 Rep. Bob Phalen-R

08:13:43 Rep. Marty Malone

08:14:11 Rep. Bob Phalen-R

Closing Statement:

08:15:02 Rep. Bob Phalen (R), HD 36, closed the hearing on HB 861.

HEARING ON HB 870 - Revise tax rate for agricultural property owned by certain nonprofits

Opening Statement:

08:15:47 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 870, Revise tax rate for agricultural property owned by certain nonprofits.

Proponent Testimony:

08:17:26 Charles Denowh, Property Owners of Montana

08:21:19 Casey Knudsen, Representative HD 33

Opponent Testimony:

08:22:33 Angel DeVries, Ranchers Stewardship Alliance

08:24:58 Dick Dolan, Trust Public Land

08:26:12 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Irrigators

08:27:00 Peggy Trenk, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

08:29:36 Pat Bousilman, MT Association of Land Trusts

08:30:10 Liz Moore, Montana Non-Profit Association

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:32:22 Robin Rude, DOR

Questions from Committee:

08:32:52 Rep. Scot Kerns

08:33:43 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

08:34:31 Rep. Marty Malone

08:34:46 Robin Rude

08:35:49 Rep. Brad Barker

08:36:13 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

08:36:48 Vice Chair Mark Thane

08:37:01 Robin Rude

08:38:00 Rep. Dave Fern

08:38:07 Robin Rude

08:39:16 Rep. Dave Fern
08:39:46 Rep. Brandon Ler-R
08:39:53 Rep. Tanner Smith
08:40:03 Robin Rude
08:40:53 Chair Paul Fielder
08:41:17 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

Closing Statement:

08:42:24 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, closed the hearing on HB 870.

HEARING ON HB 912 - Provide for recreational land classification for property tax purposes

Opening Statement:

08:43:41 Rep. Edward Butcher (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on HB 912, Provide for recreational land classification for property tax purposes.

Proponent Testimony:

08:56:34 Casey Knudsen, Representative HD 33
08:59:08 Ross Butcher, Fergus County
09:01:39 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana

Opponent Testimony:

09:02:50 Ernie Barker, Self
09:05:34 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
09:08:20 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association
09:10:41 Dick Dolan, Trust Public Land
09:11:13 Pat Bousilman, MT Association of Land Trusts

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:11:58 Robin Rude, DOR

Questions from Committee:

09:12:26 Rep. Russel Miner
09:12:44 Robin Rude
09:13:14 Rep. Dave Fern
09:13:26 Pat Dolan
09:15:04 Rep. Brad Barker
09:15:13 Ross Butcher
09:17:01 Rep. Marty Malone
09:17:07 Robin Rude
09:19:07 Rep. Jill Cohenour
09:19:23 Ernie Barker

Closing Statement:

09:21:30 Rep. Edward Butcher (R), HD 29, closed the hearing on HB 912.

HEARING ON HB 925 - Revise laws related to tax increment pledged to payment of bonds

Opening Statement:

09:27:32 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 925, Revise laws related to tax increment pledged to payment of bonds.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

09:29:23 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns
09:34:39 Sarah Converse, NCMEDD
09:35:30 Allison Corbin, Big Sky Economic Development

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:36:44 Rep. Marilyn Marler
09:37:06 Rep. Larry Brewster-R
09:38:29 Rep. Dave Fern
09:39:06 Rep. Larry Brewster-R

Closing Statement:

09:40:08 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, closed the hearing on HB 925.

HEARING ON HB 926 - Increase maximum elderly homeowner and renter credit

Opening Statement:

09:41:15 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 926, Increase maximum elderly homeowner and renter credit.

Proponent Testimony:

09:44:50 Adrienne Cotton, AARP Montana

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:46:46 Shailyn Daigle, DOR

Questions from Committee:

09:47:29 Vice Chair Mark Thane
09:48:07 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R
09:50:16 Rep. Marilyn Marler
09:50:32 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

Closing Statement:

09:51:51 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 926.

HEARING ON HB 943 - Revise taxation of property used as a short-term rental

Opening Statement:

09:54:07 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 943, Revise taxation of property used as a short-term rental.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:00:12 Robin Rude, DOR

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

10:00:45 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 943.

HEARING ON HB 931 - Provide a partial property tax exemption for high efficiency transmission lines

Opening Statement:

10:02:30 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 931, Provide a partial property tax exemption for high efficiency transmission lines.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230329TAHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:10:29 Doug Roehm, DOR

Questions from Committee:

10:11:02 Rep. Brad Barker
10:11:16 Rep. Steven Galloway-R
10:12:59 Rep. Edward Butcher
10:13:36 Rep. Steven Galloway-R
10:16:00 Vice Chair Mark Thane
10:16:28 Rep. Steven Galloway-R
10:17:10 Rep. Jill Cohenour
10:17:25 Rep. Steven Galloway-R
10:18:32 Rep. Dave Fern
10:18:40 Doug Roehm
10:20:07 Chair Paul Fielder
10:20:12 Rep. Steven Galloway-R

Closing Statement:

10:22:14 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 931.

HEARING ON HB 881 - Generally revise economic development laws

Opening Statement:

10:23:38 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 881,
Generally revise economic development laws.

Proponent Testimony:

10:30:09 Liane Taylor, Department of Commerce

[EXHIBIT\(230329TAHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230329TAHa3\)](#)

10:37:06 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development
10:38:34 Scott Boulinger, Montana Independent Bankers
10:39:04 Dan Rooney, ADF International, Inc.
10:40:25 Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority

Opponent Testimony:

10:43:01 Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development
10:44:41 Nicole Rush, Missoula Economic Partnership
10:46:50 Ross Butcher, Snowy Mountain Development Corporation
10:48:30 Sara Hudson, Snowy Mountain Development Corporation

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:52:37 Rep. Sue Vinton
10:52:47 Liane Taylor
10:54:30 Rep. Marilyn Marler
10:54:54 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
10:55:45 Rep. Marilyn Marler
10:55:51 Liane Taylor
10:57:19 Rep. Jill Cohenour
10:57:40 Allison Corbyn
10:59:43 Rep. Jill Cohenour
10:59:53 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
11:01:26 Vice Chair Mark Thane

11:01:51 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
11:02:42 Rep. Alice Buckley
11:02:49 Allison Corbyn
11:05:14 Rep. Marilyn Marler
11:05:22 Sarah Converse

Closing Statement:

11:09:46 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 881.

11:11:07 **Recessed**

11:38:36 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 819 - Create Montana community reinvestment act to fund workforce housing

11:38:51 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 819 DO PASS.**
11:38:51 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 9 by voice vote with Rep. Barker, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Fern, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. Malone, Rep. Nikolakakos, Rep. Romano, Rep. Thane, Rep. Vinton, voting yes.
Rep. Nikolakakos, By Proxy
12:26:41 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Paul Fielder moved that **HB 819 TO TABLE.**
12:26:41 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 857 - Provide income tax credit for sprinkler systems in historic buildings

11:41:31 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 857 DO PASS.**
11:41:31 **Vote:** Motion failed 17 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Buckley, Rep. Butcher, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. Welch, voting yes.
12:29:12 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Paul Fielder moved that **HB 857 TO TABLE.**
12:29:12 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 860 - Provide income tax credit for rural fire suppression equipment

- 11:43:49 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 860 DO PASS.**
- 11:43:49 **Vote:** Motion failed 16 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Barker, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Butcher, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. Welch, voting yes.
- 11:45:26 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Paul Fielder moved that **HB 860 TO TABLE.**
- 11:45:26 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 884 - Allow tax payments in gold, silver, and state produced gold media

- 11:45:53 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 884 DO PASS.**
- 11:46:07 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Mark Thane moved that **HB 884 TO TABLE.**
- 11:46:07 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 15 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Butcher, Rep. Essmann, Rep. Kerns, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Smith, Rep. Vinton, voting no.
Rep. Essmann, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 906 - Revise laws related to agricultural property taxation

- 11:47:59 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 906 DO PASS.**
- 11:48:29 **Motion:** Rep. Paul Fielder moved that **HB 906 BE AMENDED.**
- 11:48:29 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:49:38 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 906 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

- 11:49:50 Vice Chair Mark Thane
- 11:49:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Cohenour, Rep. Marler, Rep. Miner, Rep. Romano, Rep. Thane, voting no.
Rep. Abbott, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 911 - Generally revise individual income tax laws

- 11:51:57 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 911 DO PASS.**
- 11:51:57 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 9 by voice vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Cohenour, Rep. Fern, Rep. Kerns, Rep. Marler, Rep. Romano, Rep. Smith, Rep. Thane, voting yes.
Rep. Abbott, By Proxy
- 12:42:28 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Paul Fielder moved that **HB 911 TO TABLE.**
- 12:42:28 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

- 11:55:21 **Motion:** Rep. Tom Welch moved that **HB 634 DO PASS.**
- 11:55:30 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Rhonda Knudsen moved that **HB 634 TO TABLE.**
- 11:55:30 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:56:29

Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary

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