

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 30, 2023 at 8:42 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. 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. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (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 430 03/29/2023
HB 485 03/30/2023
HB 821 03/29/2023
HB 828 03/30/2023
HB 840 03/30/2023
HB 856 03/29/2023
HB 904 03/30/2023
HB 906 03/30/2023
HB 944 03/30/2023
HB 949 03/30/2023

Executive Action:

HB 821 DO PASS
HB 856 DO PASS
HB 927 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 904 DO PASS
HB 906 DO PASS
HB 840 DO PASS
HB 485 DO PASS
HB 828 DO PASS
HB 949 DO PASS
HB 944 DO PASS
HB 872 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HEARING ON HB 430 - Establish a rent local program funded with tax on short-term rentals

Opening Statement:

08:43:45 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 430, Establish a rent local program funded with tax on short-term rentals.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230330APHa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230330APHa2\)](#)

08:47:19 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.

08:47:48 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

08:55:54 Mark Taylor, Hospitality and Development Association

08:58:19 David O'Connor, Executive Director, Big Sky Community Housing Trust

09:00:24 Terry Cunningham, Deputy Mayor, Bozeman

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:02:16 Chair Jones left the meeting and Vice Chair Keenan assumed the gavel.

09:02:18 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

09:03:13 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

09:08:58 Rep. Paul Tuss

09:09:40 Vice Chair Caferro left the meeting.

09:10:11 David O'Connor, BSCHT

09:10:55 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:12:43 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

09:14:57 David O'Connor, BSCHT

09:16:11 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:16:32 Terry Cunningham, Bozeman

09:18:35 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:19:30 Rep. Regier joined the meeting.

09:19:39 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

09:20:07 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:20:56 Rep. Gillette

09:23:23 Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

09:24:13 Rep. David Bedey

09:24:54 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.

09:25:39 Rep. Schillinger left the meeting.

09:29:15 Rep. Read joined the meeting.

09:31:16 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

09:31:23 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:31:26 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

09:34:25 Rep. Malone

Closing Statement:

09:34:56 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, closed the hearing on HB 430.

HEARING ON HB 821 - Appropriate money to dept. of ag for weed control

Opening Statement:

09:39:26 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB 821, Appropriate money to dept. of ag for weed control.

Proponent Testimony:

09:40:50 Dan Rostad, Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC)

[EXHIBIT\(230330APHa3\)](#)

09:43:00 Ray Beck, Yellowstone Conservation District (YCD)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:44:40 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy

09:45:25 Ray Beck, YCD

09:50:11 Rep. Paul Tuss

09:51:38 Rep. Fiona Nave

09:52:06 Dan Rostad, YR CDC

09:53:07 Rep. David Bedey

09:53:31 Ray Beck, YCD

09:57:38 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:58:13 Rep. Marty Malone-R

09:59:19 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

09:59:32 Chair Jones joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

09:59:34 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HB 821.

HEARING ON HB 856 - Generally revise capitol complex administration laws

Opening Statement:

10:01:29 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 856, Generally revise capitol complex administration laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:02:48 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration

[EXHIBIT\(230330APHa4\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230330APHa5\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230330APHa6\)](#)

10:08:45 Austin James, Office of Secretary of State

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:11:10 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

10:11:18 Austin James, Office of Secretary of State

10:12:03 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:12:49 Todd Everts, Code Commissioner, Legislative Branch

10:16:36 Rep. Matt Regier-R

Closing Statement:

10:17:32 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, closed the hearing on HB 856.

10:18:59 **Recessed**

14:37:56 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 821 - Appropriate money to dept. of ag for weed control

14:38:02 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 821 DO PASS.**

14:38:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 10 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Falk, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no. Rep. Caferro, Rep. Regier, Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 856 - Generally revise capitol complex administration laws

14:39:58 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 856 DO PASS.**

14:39:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

HEARING ON HB 904 - Generally revise commercial driver's license laws

Opening Statement:

14:53:57 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 904, Generally revise commercial driver's license laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

14:54:11 Brad Martin, Administrator, Motor Carrier Services

14:55:24 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

14:59:06 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

14:59:31 Larry Flynn, MDT

15:01:13 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

15:01:31 Rep. David Bedey

15:01:42 Larry Flynn, MDT

15:01:59 Rep. David Bedey

15:02:13 Larry Flynn, MDT

Closing Statement:

15:02:37 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 904.

HEARING ON HB 906 - Revise laws related to agricultural property taxation

Opening Statement:

15:04:04 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 906, Revise laws related to agricultural property taxation.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:07:23 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:09:01 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

15:10:32 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:13:05 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

15:13:22 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

15:13:52 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

15:14:35 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:14:58 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

15:16:15 Rep. David Bedey

15:17:21 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

Closing Statement:

15:17:17 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 906.

HEARING ON HB 840 - Revise tobacco tax allocation for state veterans' nursing homes

Opening Statement:

15:21:12 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 840, Revise tobacco tax allocation for state veterans' nursing homes.

Proponent Testimony:

15:22:00 Roger Hagan, Montana Department of the American Legion?

15:25:10 Matt Kuntz, NAMI Montana

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:25:52 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:26:36 Chair Llew Jones

Closing Statement:

15:27:50 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, closed the hearing on HB 840.

HEARING ON HB 828 - Authorize an ambulance provider assessment program

Opening Statement:

15:29:31 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 828, Authorize an ambulance provider assessment program.

Proponent Testimony:

15:35:14 Matt Kuntz, NAMI Montana

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:36:15 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
15:37:11 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:37:33 Rep. Jane Gillette
15:41:17 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:41:46 Rep. Fiona Nave
15:43:09 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:43:18 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
15:43:34 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:43:55 Chair Llew Jones
15:44:04 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:44:08 Chair Llew Jones
15:44:20 Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:44:50 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:45:46 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
15:47:05 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:47:40 Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:48:03 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:48:21 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:48:38 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:49:22 Chair Llew Jones
15:50:26 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
15:50:40 Rep. Fiona Nave
15:51:41 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

Closing Statement:

15:52:02 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 828.

HEARING ON HB 485 - Revise tax rates for stripper oil production

Opening Statement:

15:53:19 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 485, Revise tax rates for stripper oil production.

Proponent Testimony:

15:54:07 Patrick Montalban, President and CEO, Montalban Oil & Gas Operations, Inc. (MOGO)

[EXHIBIT\(230330APHa7\)](#)

15:57:31 Allan Olson, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:58:41 Rep. Jim Hamilton
15:59:59 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
16:01:20 Patrick Montalban, MOGO

Closing Statement:

16:04:20 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 485.

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

Opening Statement:

16:05:16 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 944, Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:16:41 Rep. Paul Tuss

16:18:01 Rep. Naarah Hastings

16:19:10 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

16:20:57 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:21:12 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

16:26:44 Rep. David Bedey

16:28:07 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

Closing Statement:

16:30:15 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 944.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 927 - Authorize additional authority for coal trust housing loans

- 16:31:15 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 927 DO PASS.**
- 16:32:46 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 927 BE AMENDED.**
- 16:32:46 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 16:33:08 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 927 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 16:33:08 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 904 - Generally revise commercial driver's license laws

- 16:33:38 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 904 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 16:33:53 Rep. Terry Falk
- 16:33:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

- 16:38:05 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 906 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 16:38:44 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.
- 16:38:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

Opening Statement:

- 16:40:05 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 949, Generally revise education laws related to data governance.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:46:59 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:47:13 Rep. David Bedey-R
16:47:24 Rep. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.
16:56:42 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:57:13 Rep. David Bedey-R
16:59:00 Rep. Terry Moore
16:59:02 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.
16:59:30 Rep. David Bedey-R
17:00:51 Chair Llew Jones

Closing Statement:

17:03:50 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 949.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 840 - Revise tobacco tax allocation for state veterans' nursing homes

17:05:55 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 840 DO PASS.**
17:05:55 **Vote:** Motion carried 20 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 485 - Revise tax rates for stripper oil production

17:08:11 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 485 DO PASS.**
17:08:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Falk, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Moore, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 828 - Authorize an ambulance provider assessment program

17:09:39 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 828 DO PASS.**
17:09:39 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Mercer, voting no.

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

17:11:18 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 949 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:11:21 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:11:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 21 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Nave, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, voting no.

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

17:14:00 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 944 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:14:19 Rep. Jane Gillette

17:14:46 Rep. David Bedey

17:15:58 Rep. Paul Tuss

17:16:44 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:17:28 Rep. David Bedey

17:18:59 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

17:19:40 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

17:20:07 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

17:14:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 872 - Provide funding for behavioral health system for future generations

17:31:41 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 872 DO PASS.**

17:32:05 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **HB 872 BE AMENDED.**

17:32:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:33:36 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 872 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:34:12 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
17:34:32 Rep. Jane Gillette
17:35:26 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
17:36:14 Rep. David Bedey
17:37:16 Julie Johnson
17:37:58 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:38:37 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
17:39:16 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:43:30 Chair Llew Jones

17:43:42 Julie Johnson

17:33:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:45:48 **Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 872 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:47:42 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
17:47:59 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
17:48:35 Rep. Naarah Hastings
17:48:57 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
17:52:14 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
17:52:47 Rep. Paul Tuss

17:45:48 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:53:30 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 872 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:55:14 Chair Llew Jones
17:55:53 Julie Johnson
17:56:05 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
17:58:12 Julie Johnson
18:00:11 Chair Llew Jones
18:01:24 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
18:01:33 Chair Llew Jones

18:03:53 Rep. David Bedey
18:04:10 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
18:04:34 Julie Johnson
18:05:13 Rep. Jim Hamilton
18:07:24 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
18:09:14 Julie Johnson
18:09:33 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
18:10:13 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:53:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
18:12:15 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 872 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
Discussion:
18:12:41 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
18:15:36 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
18:16:56 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
18:18:23 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
18:12:15 **Vote:** Motion carried 22 - 1 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:24:07

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230330APHaad\)](#)