

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

Call to Order: Chair Bob Keenan-R, on March 31, 2023 at 8:39 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. 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. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (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 829 03/30/2023

HB 853 03/30/2023

HB 888 03/30/2023

HB 957 03/30/2023

Executive Action:

HB 648 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 649 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 774 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 816 DO PASS

HB 825 TO TABLE

HB 430 TO TABLE

HB 853 TO TABLE

HB 888 TO TABLE

HB 957 TO TABLE

HB 829 TO TABLE

HB 332 DO PASS AS AMENDED

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

Opening Statement:

08:40:52 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, opened the hearing on HB 888, Support community colleges in addressing immediate workforce needs.

Discussion:

08:41:12 Rep. Nave, Rep. Bedey and Rep. Read joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

08:42:27 Aidan Myhre, Miles City Community College, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College

08:44:07 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

08:44:51 Rep. Tony Brockman, HD 9

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:45:46 Rep. Jim Hamilton

08:45:56 Rep. Amy Regier-R

08:46:12 Aidan Myhre, Community Colleges

Closing Statement:

08:47:13 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, closed the hearing on HB 888.

HEARING ON HB 829 - Establish a Montana workforce housing tax credit

Opening Statement:

08:47:31 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 829, Establish a Montana workforce housing tax credit.

Proponent Testimony:

08:49:25 Becky Brandborg, Echo Enterprises

[EXHIBIT\(230331APHa1\)](#)1

08:51:41 Rep. Regier, left the meeting.

08:52:29 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:53:07 Cheryl Cohen, Executive Director, Montana Board of Housing

[EXHIBIT\(230331APHa2\)](#)

Questions from Committee:

08:53:34 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:53:58 Rep. George Nikolakakos-R

08:55:34 Cheryl Cohen, BOH

08:56:29 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

08:56:45 Cheryl Cohen, BOH

Closing Statement:

08:57:51 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 829.

HEARING ON HB 957 - Provide an appropriation for aerial enforcement of speeding laws on Highway 212

Opening Statement:

08:59:33 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, opened the hearing on HB 957, Provide an appropriation for aerial enforcement of speeding laws on Highway 212.

Proponent Testimony:

09:02:17 Rep. Denley Loge, HD 14
09:02:36 Rep. Hopkins, left the meeting.
09:02:59 Vice Chair Caferro, joined the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:05:25 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
09:05:40 Rep. Paul Green-R
09:05:59 Rep. Bill Mercer
09:06:30 Rep. Paul Green-R
09:09:30 Rep. Mercer
09:10:00 Rep. Loge, HD 14
09:11:10 Rep. David Bedey
09:11:29 Rep. Paul Green-R
09:13:35 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
09:13:55 Rep. Paul Green-R
09:14:50 Rep. Fiona Nave
09:15:31 Rep. Paul Green-R
09:15:35 Rep. Gillette joined the meeting.
09:17:20 Rep. Terry Moore
09:19:15 Rep. David Bedey
09:19:59 Rep. Bill Mercer

09:21:22 Rep. Paul Green-R

Closing Statement:

09:24:39 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, closed the hearing on HB 957.

HEARING ON HB 853 - Provide for sidewalks and shared-use paths that will improve school access

Opening Statement:

09:25:20 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 853, Provide for sidewalks and shared-use paths that will improve school access.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:26:47 Larry Flynn, Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee:

09:27:17 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:27:58 Larry Flynn, MDT

09:29:46 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

09:29:55 Larry Flynn, MDT

Closing Statement:

09:30:41 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 853.

09:31:30 **Recessed**

10:35:53 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 648 - Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program

10:36:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 648 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:38:03 Julie Johnson

10:38:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 648 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:38:41 Rep. Jane Gillette

10:39:27 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

10:39:37 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:40:44 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 648 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:42:00 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, 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 649 - Implement rates from provider rate study

10:43:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 649 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:43:30 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

10:44:04 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 649 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:45:14 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

10:45:21 Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:46:00 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

10:46:10 Rep. Regier joined the meeting.

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 22 - 1 by roll call vote with Rep. Mercer, voting no.

10:48:47 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 649 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

- 10:48:54 Rep. Jane Gillette
- 10:49:14 Rep. Hopkins joined the meeting.
- 15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 774 - Generally revise election laws

- 10:52:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 774 DO PASS.**
- 10:53:07 **Motion:** Rep. Mike Hopkins moved that **HB 774 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 10:56:34 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 10:56:35 Rep. Regier left the meeting.
- 10:57:26 Rep. Mike Hopkins
- 10:58:10 Rep. David Bedey
- 10:58:34 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
- 15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 10:59:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 774 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 10:59:33 **Motion:** Rep. Fiona Nave moved that **HB 774 BE AMENDED.**
- 15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:01:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 774 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

- 11:01:54 Rep. Mike Hopkins
- 15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 816 - Revise distribution of surplus revenue through tax rebates

- 11:03:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 816 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:03:37 Rep. Terry Falk

11:06:31 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

11:07:32 **Motion:** Rep. Terry Falk moved that **HB 816 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:07:44 Rep. Naarah Hastings

11:08:11 Rep. Jerry Schillinger

11:08:58 Rep. Jane Gillette

11:09:44 Chair Llew Jones

11:10:14 Rep. Hastings left the meeting.

11:10:36 Rep. Jane Gillette

11:10:59 Rep. Terry Falk

11:11:25 Rep. Jane Gillette

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting yes.
Rep. Hastings, Rep. Regier, By Proxy

11:15:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 816 DO PASS.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keenan, voting no.
Rep. Hastings, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 825 - Provide funding to address affordable housing

11:17:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 825 DO PASS.**

11:18:04 **Motion:** Rep. Mike Hopkins moved that **HB 825 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:18:41 Rep. Windy Boy left the meeting and Rep. Hastings rejoined the meeting.

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:19:47 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 825 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting yes.
Rep. Windy Boy, By Proxy

11:21:21 **Motion:** Chair Llew Jones moved that **HB 825 TO TABLE.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 11 by voice vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Fitzpatrick, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Jones, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

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

11:21:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 430 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

12:07:30 Rep. Gillette

11:22:40 **Motion:** Rep. Jane Gillette moved that **HB 430 TO TABLE.**

Discussion:

11:21:50 Rep. Jane Gillette

11:23:02 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 853 - Provide for sidewalks and shared-use paths that will improve school access

11:23:19 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 853 DO PASS.**

11:23:37 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 853 TO TABLE.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 14 - 9 by voice vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

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

11:25:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 888 DO PASS.**

11:25:19 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 888 TO TABLE.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 957 - Provide an appropriation for aerial enforcement of speeding laws on Highway 212

11:26:19 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 957 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:26:35 Rep. David Bedey

11:26:50 Vice Chair Bob Keenan

11:28:51 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

11:29:02 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 957 TO TABLE.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 829 - Establish a Montana workforce housing tax credit

11:29:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 829 DO PASS.**

11:29:51 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 829 TO TABLE.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 15 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 332 - Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits

11:31:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 332 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 10 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.

11:32:37 **Motion:** Rep. David Bedey moved that **HB 332 DO PASS.**

11:34:42 **Motion:** Rep. David Bedey moved that **HB 332 BE AMENDED.**

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:38:46 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **HB 332 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:38:55 Rep. Bill Mercer

11:39:49 Rep. Jim Hamilton

11:41:14 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

11:42:35 Rep. Terry Moore

11:45:05 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

15:34:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 11 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:49:49

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230331APHaad\)](#)