

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on March 31, 2023 at 4:00 PM, in Room 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. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
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 193 03/31/2023
HB 819 03/31/2023
HB 843 03/31/2023
HB 881 03/31/2023
HB 887 03/31/2023
HB 893 03/31/2023
HB 894 03/31/2023
HB 897 03/31/2023
HB 898 03/31/2023
HB 907 03/31/2023
HB 912 03/31/2023
HB 926 03/31/2023
HB 936 03/31/2023
HB 943 03/31/2023
HB 948 03/31/2023
HB 952 03/31/2023
HB 953 03/31/2023
HB 963 03/31/2023

Executive Action:

HB 912 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 952 DO PASS
HB 936 TO TABLE
HB 894 DO PASS
HB 948 DO PASS
HB 843 TO TABLE
HB 825 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HEARING ON HB 936 - Fund father-education programs in state prisons

Opening Statement:

16:02:36 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 936, Fund father-education programs in state prisons.

Discussion:

16:04:04 Rep. Falk, Rep. Binkley and Rep. Kerr-Carpenter joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:05:03 Rep. Naarah Hastings
16:05:21 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway-R
16:05:57 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:06:24 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway-R
16:07:20 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:08:25 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:09:20 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway-R

Closing Statement:

16:12:00 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HB 936.

HEARING ON HB 953 - Create election security and integrity complaint and enforcement process

Opening Statement:

16:12:56 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 953, Create election security and integrity complaint and enforcement process.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:15:08 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:16:29 Rep. Buttrey, HD 21
16:16:42 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
16:17:11 Rep. Buttrey, HD 21
16:17:43 Rep. Fiona Nave
16:17:55 Rep. Buttrey, HD 21
16:20:21 Rep. David Bedey
16:21:07 Rep. Stafman, HD 62
16:25:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:25:53 Rep. Stafman, HD 62
16:26:47 Rep. Steven Galloway-R
16:26:49 Rep. Buttrey, HD 21

Closing Statement:

16:37:02 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 953.

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

Opening Statement:

16:28:29 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, opened the hearing on HB 819, Create Montana community reinvestment act to fund workforce housing.

Proponent Testimony:

16:30:48 Jesse Luther, listen MT Housing... Alliance
[EXHIBIT\(230331APHb1\)](#)

16:34:56 Cory Shaw, Montana Building Industry Association

16:34:59 Rep. Read, left the meeting.

16:35:44 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish

16:36:08 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Bankers Association

16:36:25 Mark Taylor, Hospitality and Development Association of Montana (HDAM)

16:37:52 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

16:38:15 Scott Boulonger, Montana Independent Bankers

16:38:32 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

16:39:32 Rebecca Meyers, Billings Chamber of Commerce

16:39:58 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:41:00 Rep. Paul Tuss

16:41:55 Mark Taylor, HDAM

16:44:20 Rep. Terry Moore

16:46:10 Mark Taylor, HDAM

16:46:50 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

16:47:05 Mark Taylor, HDAM

16:49:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:53:13 Rep. Paul Green-R
16:57:01 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
16:57:20 Rep. Paul Green-R
16:58:24 Rep. Read joined the meetingl

Closing Statement:

16:59:22 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, closed the hearing on HB 819.

HEARING ON HB 894 - Generally revise alcohol laws

Opening Statement:

17:01:11 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 894,
Generally revise alcohol laws.

Discussion:

17:01:49 Rep. Moore, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, and Vice Chair Caferro left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

17:03:35 Jessie Luther, Hospitality and Development Association of Montana
(HDAM)

17:04:37 Aimee Grmoljez, Crowley Fleck Law Firm

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:05:15 Becky Schlaugh, Administrator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABC)

Questions from Committee:

17:05:58 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:06:43 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R
17:08:21 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:08:34 Becky Schlaugh, ABC

17:09:09 Rep. Moore joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

17:10:52 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 894.

HEARING ON HB 881 - Generally revise economic development laws

Opening Statement:

17:11:24 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 881, Generally revise economic development laws.

Proponent Testimony:

17:13:15 Liane Taylor, Administrator, Business MT Division, Department of Commerce

17:16:34 Rebecca Meyers, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)

17:17:46 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, joined the meeting.

17:17:53 Scott Boulanger, Montana Independent Bankers

17:18:17 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development (BSED)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:19:23 Rep. Paul Tuss

17:19:40 Liane Taylor, DOC

17:23:37 Rep. Jim Hamilton

17:23:46 Liane Taylor, DOC

17:25:06 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:25:43 Liane Taylor, DOC

17:25:55 Rep. Falk left the meeting.

17:26:04 Rep. Windy Boy joined the meeting.
17:26:26 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy
17:26:27 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.
17:27:30 Liane Taylor, DOC

Closing Statement:

17:32:08 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 881.

HEARING ON HB 948 - Revise marijuana laws regarding synthetic marijuana products

Opening Statement:

17:33:07 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 948, Revise marijuana laws regarding synthetic marijuana products.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:36:02 Rep. Fiona Nave
17:38:07 Rep. Ed Buttrey, HD 21
17:39:28 Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.
17:40:01 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:40:37 Rep. Ed Buttrey, HD 21
17:42:13 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
17:43:23 Rep. Bill Mercer
17:43:33 Rep. Ed Buttrey, HD 21

Closing Statement:

17:45:59 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 948.

17:46:38 **Recessed**

18:16:03 **Reconvened**

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

Opening Statement:

18:16:42 Rep. Edward Butcher (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on HB 912, Provide for recreational land classification for property tax purposes.

Discussion:

18:21:37 Everyone present after recess except Rep. Regier.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

18:28:56 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:29:28 Rep. Hastings left the meeting.

18:29:46 Rep. Edward Butcher-R

Closing Statement:

18:32:13 Rep. Edward Butcher (R), HD 29, closed the hearing on HB 912.

HEARING ON HB 893 - Create the office of public records ombudsman & advisory council

Opening Statement:

18:32:26 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 893, Create the office of public records ombudsman & advisory council.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

18:36:29 Rep. Terry Moore
18:37:00 Rep. Regier joined the meeting.
18:37:35 Rep. Ed Stafman-D
18:39:12 Rep. Jim Hamilton
18:39:39 Rep. Ed Stafman-D
18:41:14 Rep. Jane Gillette
18:42:45 Rep. Ed Stafman-D
18:45:58 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Hastings left the meeting.
18:46:39 Rep. David Bedey
18:49:08 Rep. Terry Moore
18:50:38 Rep. Jim Hamilton

Closing Statement:

18:52:28 Rep. Ed Stafman =(D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 893.

HEARING ON HB 963 - Generally revise state financing laws and create tax rebate fund

Opening Statement:

18:53:11 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 963, Generally revise state financing laws and create tax rebate fund.

[EXHIBIT\(230331APHb2\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

18:56:00 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

18:57:50 Rep. Bill Mercer

18:58:56 Rose Bender, MBPC

18:59:20 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

Closing Statement:

19:00:11 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, closed the hearing on HB 963.

HEARING ON HB 897 - Revise MEDIA Act film credit laws

Opening Statement:

19:01:33 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 897, Revise MEDIA Act film credit laws.

Proponent Testimony:

19:06:42 Adrienna Hines, Media Coalition of Montana (MCM)

[EXHIBIT\(230331APHb3\)](#)

19:07:45 Jessie Luther, Motion Picture Association, Enterprise Holdings

19:08:32 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

19:09:17 Casey Tippens, President, Media Coalition of Montana (MCM)

19:10:45 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development, Economic Developers Association

19:11:24 Sean Patrick Higgins, Storyhouse Pictures Inc, Media Coalition Montana (MCM)

19:12:23 Lynn-Wood Fields, Media Training Center

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

19:13:17 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
19:14:51 Casey Tippens, MCM
19:16:29 Rep. Jim Hamilton
19:16:56 Adrienna Hines, MCM
19:18:45 Rep. Jim Hamilton
19:20:32 Rep. Brad Barker-R
19:22:52 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
19:24:24 Rep. Terry Falk
19:25:17 Rep. Brad Barker-R
19:28:26 Rep. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.
19:31:05 Rep. Connie Keogh

Closing Statement:

19:32:33 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, closed the hearing on HB 897.

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

Opening Statement:

19:33:08 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:

None

Questions from Committee:

19:36:49 Rep. Jane Gillette
19:37:47 Rep. Dave Fern-D
19:37:58 Rep. Jerry Schillinger
19:39:15 Rep. Dave Fern-D
19:39:25 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard
19:41:10 Rep. Jim Hamilton
19:42:38 Rep. Dave Fern-D

Closing Statement:

19:45:31 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 943.

HEARING ON HB 887 - Establish a wildlife accommodation and crossing account

Opening Statement:

19:46:02 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 887, Establish a wildlife accommodation and crossing account.

Proponent Testimony:

19:47:44 Shane Scanlon, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
19:48:33 Rep. Scot Kerns, HD 23

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

19:49:20 Larry Flynn, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee:

19:49:42 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
19:49:55 Larry Flynn, MDT
19:50:45 Rep. Bill Mercer
19:50:56 Larry Flynn, MDT

Closing Statement:

19:52:32 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 887.

HEARING ON HB 193 - Revise law for driving without insurance

Opening Statement:

19:53:32 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 193, Revise law for driving without insurance.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

19:54:36 Rep. Bill Mercer
19:55:15 Rep. Fred Anderson-R
19:55:44 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
19:55:53 Rep. Hopkins left the meeting.
19:56:06 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

Closing Statement:

19:56:23 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, closed the hearing on HB 193.

HEARING ON HB 843 - Free hunting/fishing for service members/veterans with 50% disability rating

Opening Statement:

19:56:46 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 843, Free hunting/fishing for service members/veterans with 50% disability rating.

[EXHIBIT\(230331APHb4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

19:59:44 Rep. Jim Hamilton

20:00:28 Rep. Scot Kerns-R

Closing Statement:

20:00:56 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, closed the hearing on HB 843.

HEARING ON HB 952 - Create grant program for autism facilities

Opening Statement:

20:01:15 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 952, Create grant program for autism facilities.

Proponent Testimony:

20:02:57 Sen. Dan Salomon, SD 47

20:04:05 Sen. Shane Morigeau, SD 48

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

20:09:33 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
20:10:01 Sen. Shane Morigeau, SD 48
20:10:32 Chair Llew Jones
20:11:15 Rep. Bill Mercer
20:11:51 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

Closing Statement:

20:12:19 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 952.

HEARING ON HB 907 - Generally revise marijuana laws

Opening Statement:

20:13:12 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 907,
Generally revise marijuana laws.

Proponent Testimony:

20:18:49 Rep. Courtney Sprunger, HD 7

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

20:20:10 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
20:20:42 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R
20:24:16 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
20:24:21 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R
20:26:39 Rep. Bill Mercer

20:26:55 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

20:30:49 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

20:31:51 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

Closing Statement:

20:32:23 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 907.

HEARING ON HB 898 - Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act

Opening Statement:

20:35:36 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 898, Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

20:39:33 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 898.

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

Opening Statement:

20:39:50 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 926, Increase maximum elderly homeowner and renter credit.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

20:41:37 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 926.

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

20:44:27 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 912 DO PASS.**

20:44:30 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 912 BE AMENDED.**

20:44:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

20:44:44 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 912 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

20:44:48 Rep. Jim Hamilton

20:45:05 Chair Llew Jones

20:44:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 952 - Create grant program for autism facilities

20:54:13 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 952 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

20:55:05 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

20:55:59 Rep. Jane Gillette

20:57:05 Rep. David Bedey

20:57:42 Rep. Joe Read

20:58:54 Rep. Terry Moore

20:54:13 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 10 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.
Rep. Hastings, Rep. Regier, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 936 - Fund father-education programs in state prisons

21:01:20 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 936 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

21:01:23 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

21:02:22 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. John Fitzpatrick moved that **HB 936 TO TABLE.**

Discussion:

21:02:37 Rep. Jane Gillette

21:02:22 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 17 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Gillette, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Jones, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 894 - Generally revise alcohol laws

21:05:19 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 894 DO PASS.**

21:05:19 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Falk, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Moore, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.
Rep. Regier, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 948 - Revise marijuana laws regarding synthetic marijuana products

21:07:11 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 948 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

21:07:15 Rep. David Bedey

21:08:25 Rep. Bill Mercer

21:08:42 Rep. Fiona Nave

21:07:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Stewart Peregoy, Rep. Tuss, Rep. Windy Boy, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 843 - Free hunting/fishing for service members/veterans with 50% disability rating

21:10:18 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Keenan moved that **HB 843 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

21:10:40 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

21:11:21 Rep. Jim Hamilton

21:10:18 **Vote:** Motion failed 17 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, voting yes.

21:12:59 **Motion:** Rep. Llew Jones moved that **HB 843 TO TABLE.**

21:12:59 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Bedey, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Caferro, Rep. Hopkins, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, voting no.

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

21:13:10 **Motion:** Rep. Mike Hopkins moved that **HB 825 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

21:13:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 8 by voice vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.

21:14:56 **Motion:** Rep. Mike Hopkins moved that **HB 825 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

21:15:01 Julie Johnson

21:14:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 10 by roll call vote with Rep. Falk, Rep. Hastings, Rep. Hellegaard, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Mercer, Rep. Moore, Rep. Nave, Rep. Read, Rep. Regier, Rep. Schillinger, voting no.
Rep. Hastings, Rep. Regier, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 21:18:48

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

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