

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on April 06, 2023 at 4:02 PM, 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. 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. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
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:

SB 28 04/05/2023

SB 60 04/05/2023

SB 95 04/05/2023

SB 132 04/05/2023

SB 294 04/05/2023

Executive Action:

16:06:48 Rep. Falk has arrived
16:06:55 Rep. Hamilton has arrived
16:07:31 Rep. Fitzpatrick has arrived
16:09:02 Vice Chair Caferro has arrived

HEARING ON SB 132 - Revise agricultural education laws

Opening Statement:

16:04:27 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 132, Revise agricultural education laws.

Proponent Testimony:

16:06:07 Jazmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union, (MFU)
16:07:52 Kaitlyn Caltabianco, East Helena Public Schools
[EXHIBIT\(230406APHa1\)](#)
16:11:41 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:13:10 Eric Tilleman, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
16:13:29 Nancy Hall, Office of Budget Program and Planning (OBPP)

Questions from Committee:

16:14:05 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:14:28 Eric Tilleman, OPI
16:14:52 Rep. Jim Hamilton
16:15:16 Eric Tilleman, OPI

Closing Statement:

16:16:13 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 132.

HEARING ON SB 28 - Provide funding for conservation districts

Opening Statement:

16:16:47 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 28, Provide funding for conservation districts.

Proponent Testimony:

16:20:10 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, (MACD)

16:21:54 Jim Simpson, Lake County Conservation District

16:24:20 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:25:43 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:26:17 Sen. Mike Lang-R

16:26:45 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:27:10 Sen. Mike Lang-R

16:27:17 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:27:41 Sen. Mike Lang-R

16:28:34 Rep. Jim Hamilton

16:28:56 Sen. Mike Lang-R

Closing Statement:

16:29:46 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 28.

16:37:01 Rep. Mercer has arrived

16:43:08 Rep. Gillette has arrived

17:01:23 Rep. Windy Boy has arrived

HEARING ON SB 294 - Establish the end of watch trust

Opening Statement:

16:30:46 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 294, Establish the end of watch trust.

Proponent Testimony:

16:36:22 Jodi Moore, Self

16:38:58 Steve Lavin, Montana Highway Patrol

16:40:07 Leo Dutton, Sheriff, Montana

16:42:34 Matthew Sayler, Self

16:44:04 Steve Holton, Self

16:46:05 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

16:47:20 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:48:08 Jessie Luther, Association of Montana Troopers (AMT)

16:51:14 Nanette Gilberston, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

16:52:34 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)

[EXHIBIT\(230406APHa2\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:55:44 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
16:56:01 Chair Llew Jones
16:56:27 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
16:56:51 Jessie Luther, AMT
16:59:32 Rep. Terry Falk
17:00:03 Sen. Barry Usher-R
17:01:44 Rep. Terry Falk
17:02:11 Chair Llew Jones
17:03:23 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
17:03:45 Shelby DeMars, MPPA
17:04:05 Sen. Barry Usher-R
17:05:35 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:06:01 Steven Lavin, Sheriff Department ???
17:06:42 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:07:42 Shelby DeMars, MPPA
17:08:59 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:09:09 Sen. Barry Usher-R
17:11:37 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:11:51 Chair Llew Jones
17:12:02 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:13:04 Sen. Barry Usher-R

Closing Statement:

17:13:10 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 294.

17:18:25 Chair Jones has left

HEARING ON SB 95 - Generally revise theft laws

Opening Statement:

17:18:16 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 95, Generally revise theft laws.

Proponent Testimony:

17:19:49 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association (MRA)

17:22:41 Rhonda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)

17:23:37 Nanette Gilberston, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

17:24:50 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)

Opponent Testimony:

17:25:28 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU of Montana

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:28:28 Natalie Smitham, Department of Corrections, (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

17:29:19 Rep. Naarah Hastings

17:29:43 Rhonda Wiggers, NFIB

17:29:59 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

17:30:14 Natalie Smitham, DOC

17:30:53 Rep. Bill Mercer

17:31:43 Natalie Smitham, DOC

Closing Statement:

17:33:43 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 95.

HEARING ON SB 60 - Establish enterprise fund for Montana spatial real time network

Opening Statement:

17:35:50 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R), SD 14, opened the hearing on SB 60, Establish enterprise fund for Montana spatial real time network.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230406APHa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230406APHa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

17:38:12 Evan Hammer, Montana State Library (MSL)

17:42:27 Dustin Rouse, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

17:45:02 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

17:47:06 Brian Thompson, Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors (MARLS)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:18:34 Vice Chair Keenan assumed position of the Chair.

17:48:39 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard

17:48:52 Dustin Rouse, MDT

17:50:36 Rep. Fiona Nave

17:51:08 Evan Hammer, MSL

17:51:35 Rep. Fiona Nave

17:52:12 Evan Hammer, MSL

17:53:06 Rep. Fiona Nave

17:53:29 Rep. David Bedey

17:53:49 Rep. Fiona Nave
17:54:05 Rep. David Bedey
17:54:44 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:55:18 Evan Hammer, MSL
17:56:08 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
17:56:20 Evan Hammer, MSL
17:57:02 Rep. Jim Hamilton
17:57:35 Evan Hammer, MSL
17:58:21 Vice Chair Bob Keenan
17:58:36 Evan Hammer, MSL
17:59:09 Rep. Fiona Nave
17:59:43 Dustin Rouse, MDT

Closing Statement:

18:01:01 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R), SD 14, closed the hearing on SB 60.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:07:24

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230406APHaad\)](#)