

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on April 18, 2023 at 9:33 AM, 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. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jim Hamilton (D)
Rep. Naarah Hastings (R)
Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (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. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Terry Falk (R)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Bill Mercer (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:

HJ 20 04/18/2023
SB 296 04/18/2023
SB 303 04/18/2023
SB 352 04/18/2023
SB 469 04/18/2023

Executive Action:

SB 11 BE CONCURRED IN AS
AMENDED
SB 282 TO TABLE
SB 182 BE CONCURRED IN AS
AMENDED
SB 469 TO TABLE
SB 352 BE CONCURRED IN AS
AMENDED
SB 303

HEARING ON SB 352 - Create task force to modify and improve the child protective services system

Opening Statement:

09:35:06 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, opened the hearing on SB 352, Create task force to modify and improve the child protective services system.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230418APHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:38:44 Nicki Grossberg, Administrator, Child and Family Services Division, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

09:39:15 Rep. Connie Keogh

09:39:42 Rep. Stewart-Peregoy joined the meeting.

09:39:48 Sen. Dennis Lenz-R

09:40:05 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

09:40:31 Sen. Dennis Lenz-R

09:45:00 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

09:45:23 Sen. Dennis Lenz-R

Closing Statement:

09:46:45 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, closed the hearing on SB 352.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 11 - Generally revise criminal justice system laws

09:49:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 11 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

09:49:19 Rep. Falk joined the meeting.

09:49:22 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

09:49:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:05:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 11 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:05:45 Rep. Hopkins and Rep. Regier absent at start of Executive Action.

15:05:43 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Laurie Bishop

15:06:21 **Motion:** Rep. Bill Mercer moved that **SB 11 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:08:30 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:09:18 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:17:02 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:19:11 Rep. Jim Hamilton

15:06:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:20:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 11 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:20:33 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

15:20:53 Rep. Bill Mercer

15:24:27 Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

15:20:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON SB 469 - Establish statewide central registry for reports of child abuse or neglect

Opening Statement:

09:50:53 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 469, Establish statewide central registry for reports of child abuse or neglect.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

09:54:32 Nicki Grossberg, Administrator, Child and Family Services Division,
Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

09:57:27 Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association

09:58:05 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:00:35 Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator, Judicial Branch

Questions from Committee:

10:00:56 Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:01:35 Beth McLaughlin, Judicial Branch

Closing Statement:

10:02:59 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 469.

10:08:40 **Recessed**

14:57:31 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HJ 20 - Request interim study of including regional cost adjustments to school funding

Opening Statement:

14:58:42 Rep. Eric Matthews (D), HD 66, opened the hearing on HJ 20, Request interim study of including regional cost adjustments to school funding.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:04:30 Reconsider actions on SB 11
15:00:57 Rep. Bill Mercer
15:01:18 Rep. Eric Matthews-D
15:02:20 Rep. David Bedey
15:03:03 Rep. Eric Matthews-D

Closing Statement:

15:04:06 Rep. Eric Matthews (D), HD 66, closed the hearing on HJ 20.
15:10:18 **Recessed**
15:16:47 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 282 - Revise laws related to area agencies on aging

15:25:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 282 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:27:09 Rep. Jane Gillette
15:27:50 **Substitute Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 282 TO TABLE.**
15:27:50 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 20 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Gillette, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 182 - Create task force on a court system for dependency and neglect cases

15:29:40 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 182 BE CONCURRED IN.**
15:29:40 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Jennifer Carlson
15:31:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 182 BE AMENDED.**
15:31:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
15:31:24 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 182 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

- 15:32:28 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
- 15:32:42 Rep. Read left the meeting.
- 15:31:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 21 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Keogh, voting no.
- 15:36:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 182 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
- 15:36:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 21 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Keogh, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 469 - Establish statewide central registry for reports of child abuse or neglect

- 15:37:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 469 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 15:37:34 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway
- 15:37:41 **Substitute Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 469 TO TABLE.**
- 15:37:41 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 16 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Keenan, Rep. Keogh, voting no.

HEARING ON SB 296 - Revise nursing home and/or assisted living funding

Opening Statement:

- 15:39:09 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 296, Revise nursing home and/or assisted living funding.

Proponent Testimony:

- 15:40:30 Rose Hughes, Montana Healthcare Association (MHA)
- [EXHIBIT\(230418APHa2\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

- 15:46:24 Rep. Jim Hamilton
- 15:47:03 Rose Hughes, MHA

Closing Statement:

15:48:44 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 296.

HEARING ON SB 303 - Revise withholding penalties for certain taxes

Opening Statement:

15:50:22 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 303, Revise withholding penalties for certain taxes.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:52:05 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 303.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 352 - Create task force to modify and improve the child protective services system

15:52:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 352 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:53:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 352 BE AMENDED.**

15:53:34 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:53:56 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 352 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

15:53:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Caferro, Rep. Falk, Rep. Hamilton, Rep. Keogh, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 303 - Revise withholding penalties for certain taxes

15:57:38 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 303 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:57:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:57:38 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Marty Malone

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:59:10

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230418APHaad\)](#)