

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

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones-R, on April 25, 2023 at 9:05 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. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Bill Mercer (R)
Rep. Terry Moore (R)
Rep. Fiona Nave (R)
Rep. Joe Read (R)
Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R)
Rep. Paul Tuss (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
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:

SB 516 04/24/2023

SB 529 04/24/2023

SB 535 04/24/2023

SB 538 04/24/2023

Executive Action:

SB 535

HEARING ON SB 529 - Provide property tax exemption for wireless infrastructure

Opening Statement:

09:06:44 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 529, Provide property tax exemption for wireless infrastructure.

Discussion:

09:06:55 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter, Rep. Stewart-Peregoy, and Vice Chair Caferro joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

09:08:59 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office

09:10:33 Aimee Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless

[EXHIBIT\(230425APHa1\)](#)

09:13:18 Mark Baker, Attorney, AT&T

09:14:54 Margaret Morgan, T-Mobile

09:15:07 Rep. Fitzpatrick joined the meeting

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:16:37 Jared Isom, Economist, Department of Revenue (DOR)

09:16:54 Doug Roehm, Unit Manager, Centrally Assessed Unit, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

09:17:15 Rep. David Bedey

09:17:52 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

09:20:05 Rep. David Bedey

09:21:01 Doug Roehm, DOR
09:21:45 Rep. Bill Mercer
09:22:33 Doug Roehm, DOR
09:24:24 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
09:24:46 Doug Roehm, DOR
09:25:08 Aimee Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless
09:25:59 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
09:26:47 Rep. Paul Tuss
09:27:54 Aimee Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless
09:29:40 Rep. Jim Hamilton
09:30:59 Jared Isom, DOR
09:33:44 Doug Roehm, DOR
09:34:24 Rep. Jim Hamilton
09:35:25 Chair Llew Jones
09:36:52 Sen. Greg Hertz-R
09:37:20 Rep. John Fitzpatrick
09:37:28 Jared Isom, DOR
09:38:13 Rep. Bill Mercer
09:40:11 Sen. Greg Hertz-R
09:40:40 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
09:42:27 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office
09:46:16 Vice Chair Mary Caferro
09:46:49 Sen. Greg Hertz-R
09:48:29 Rep. John Fitzpatrick

09:48:45 Doug Roehm, DOR

09:49:43 Rep. Jane Gillette

09:50:41 Chair Llew Jones

Closing Statement:

09:53:05 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 529.

HEARING ON SB 535 - Revise lottery laws relating to the board of horseracing

Opening Statement:

09:57:04 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, opened the hearing on SB 535, Revise lottery laws relating to the board of horseracing.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:58:32 Rep. Jim Hamilton

09:59:02 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D

Closing Statement:

09:59:40 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, closed the hearing on SB 535.

HEARING ON SB 516 - Provide for the Preserving Fertility Act

Opening Statement:

10:00:37 Sen. Jen Gross (D), SD 25, opened the hearing on SB 516, Provide for the Preserving Fertility Act.

Proponent Testimony:

10:05:39 Katie Beall, self

10:11:33 Becky Franks, CEO, Cancer Support Community of Montana
[EXHIBIT\(230425APHa2\)](#)

10:14:31 Heather O'Hara, Vice President, Montana Hospital Association

10:15:05 Aimee Grmoljez, Billings Clinic
[EXHIBIT\(230425APHa3\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:17:41 Gene Hermanson, Chief Financial Officer, Medicaid, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

10:18:05 Frank Cote, Office of the State Auditor

10:18:18 John Doran, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBS)

Questions from Committee:

10:18:40 Rep. Paul Tuss

10:19:05 John Doran, BCBS

10:20:52 Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:23:07 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

10:24:23 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

10:24:55 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

10:25:51 Rep. Moore and Vice Chair Keenan left the meeting.

10:26:29 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

Closing Statement:

10:31:34 Sen. Jen Gross (D), SD 25, closed the hearing on SB 516.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 535 - Revise lottery laws relating to the board of horseracing

10:33:09 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Keenan moved that **SB 535 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:33:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Hastings, voting no.

10:33:09 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Fred Anderson

HEARING ON SB 538 - Generally revise marijuana laws

Opening Statement:

10:35:01 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 538, Generally revise marijuana laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:37:06 Rep. Jim Hamilton

10:37:28 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

10:39:53 Rep. Fiona Nave

10:40:05 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

10:40:22 Rep. Bill Mercer

10:40:30 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

10:44:59 Rep. David Bedey

10:46:00 Vice Chair Mary Caferro

10:46:49 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

10:48:33 Rep. Kerr-Carpenter left the meeting.

Closing Statement:

10:52:31 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 538.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:56:50

Kathlyn Walker, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230425APHaad\)](#)