

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) JUDICIARY**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Keith Regier-R, on January 20, 2023 at 9:01 AM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Keith Regier, Chair (R)  
Sen. Barry Usher, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)  
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)  
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jen Gross (D)  
Sen. Kathy Kelker (D)

**Staff Present:** Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney  
Grace Gibney, 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 1 01/17/2023  
SB 183 01/19/2023  
SB 187 01/19/2023

Executive Action:

HJ 1 Be Concurred In

**HEARING ON HJ 1 - Request interim study on missing youth**

**Opening Statement:**

09:03:31 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HJ 1, Request interim study on missing youth.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:06:59 Dana Toole, MT Department of Justice (DOJ)  
09:13:07 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe  
09:14:20 Melody Cunningham, self  
09:15:22 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU MT)  
09:16:08 Shawn Reagor, MT Human Rights Network (HRN)  
09:16:46 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice (WNV)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:17:47 Brian Frost, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:18:22 Sen. Susan Webber  
09:18:47 Dana Toole, DOJ  
09:19:38 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
09:20:30 Brian Frost, DOJ  
09:21:20 Sen. Steve Hinebauch  
09:23:25 Sen. Susan Webber  
09:23:36 Brian Frost, DOJ  
09:24:23 Sen. Daniel Emrich  
09:24:28 Brian Frost, DOJ  
09:28:21 Sen. Daniel Emrich  
09:28:26 Dana Toole, DOJ  
09:29:27 Sen. Bob Brown

**Closing Statement:**

09:33:58 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HJ 1.

**HEARING ON SB 183 - Provide for jury trials in cases involving termination of parental rights**

**Opening Statement:**

09:37:42 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, opened the hearing on SB 183, Provide for jury trials in cases involving termination of parental rights.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:39:38 Matt Furlong, Child Protection Alliance (CPA)

09:42:07 Denise Johnson, MT Protection Alliance (MPA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:47:21 Laura Watson, self

09:54:13 Amanda O'Shea Tiernan, MT County Attorneys Association (MCAO)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:59:24 Nikki Grossberg, Child and Family Services (CFS)

09:59:36 Brian Smith, Office of Public Defender (OPD)

**Questions from Committee:**

10:01:43 Sen. Barry Usher

10:02:09 Sen. Theresa Manzella

10:02:16 Sen. Dennis Lenz-R

10:04:29 Sen. Chris Friedel

10:04:39 Brian Smith, OPD

10:05:45 Nikki Grossberg, CFS

10:07:25 Sen. Chris Friedel

10:07:42 Sen. Dennis Lenz-R

10:08:21 Sen. Andrea Olsen

10:08:31 Brian Smith, OPD

10:12:10 Sen. Jen Gross joined the meeting.

10:12:18 Sen. Theresa Manzella left the meeting.

10:12:31 Julianne Burkhardt

10:13:48 Sen. Susan Webber

10:14:07 Sen. Theresa Manzella joined the meeting.

10:14:23 Amanda O'Shea Tiernan (MCAO)

10:14:49 Sen. Daniel Emrich

10:14:56 Brian Smith, OPD

**Closing Statement:**

10:15:58 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, closed the hearing on SB 183.

**HEARING ON SB 187 - Allow remote appearances by counsel in criminal and certain civil hearings**

**Opening Statement:**

11:14:02 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 187, Allow remote appearances by counsel in criminal and certain civil hearings.

**Proponent Testimony:**

11:17:14 Brett Schandelson, Office of Public Defender (OPD)

11:21:14 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU MT)

**Opponent Testimony:**

11:22:18 Rebecca Meyers, MT Magistrates Association (MMA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

11:24:53 Amanda Stannard, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

11:25:16 Chad Parker, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

**Questions from Committee:**

11:26:09 Sen. Jen Gross

11:26:12 Brett Schandelson, OPD

11:29:06 Sen. Jen Gross

11:29:09 Julianne Burkhardt

11:29:14 Sen. Keith Regier

11:29:28 Brett Schandelson, OPD

11:30:09 Sen. Andrea Olsen

11:32:42 Brett Schandelson, OPD

11:37:00 Sen. Daniel Emrich

11:37:15 Rebecca Meyers, MMA

11:38:34 Sen. Barry Usher

11:38:43 Brett Schandelson, OPD

**Closing Statement:**

11:40:49 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 187.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 1 - Request interim study on missing youth**

11:57:55 **Motion:** Sen. Barry Usher moved that **HJ 1 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:57:55 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:57:55 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bob Brown

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:59:27

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Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230120JUSaad\)](#)