

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) FINANCE AND CLAIMS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. John Esp-R, on January 26, 2023 at 2:54 PM, in 317

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. John Esp, Chair (R)  
Sen. Carl Glimm, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)

**Staff Present:** Julie Johnson, Research Analyst  
Joe Triem, Fiscal Analyst  
Cy Walsh, 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 19 01/23/2023  
SB 54 01/23/2023  
SB 89 01/23/2023  
SB 108 01/23/2023

SB 132 01/23/2023  
Executive Action:

SB 89 DO PASS  
SB 70 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 108 DO PASS  
SB 54 DO PASS

**HEARING ON SB 108 - Revise laws related to proof of vehicle insurance**

**Opening Statement:**

14:55:40 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 108, Revise laws related to proof of vehicle insurance.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

14:57:15 Sen. McGillvray has arrived  
14:57:51 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
14:58:41 Sen. Ellis has arrived  
14:58:55 Sen. Barry Usher-R  
14:59:13 Sen. Lenz has left  
14:59:25 Sen. Dan Bartel  
15:00:04 Sen. Barry Usher-R  
15:00:09 Sen. Lang has left

**Closing Statement:**

15:00:17 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 108.

**HEARING ON SB 132 - Revise agricultural education laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:01:01 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 132, Revise agricultural education laws.  
15:01:13 Sen. Flowers has arrived  
15:01:17 Sen. Salomon has left  
15:02:28 Sen. Fuller has arrived  
15:03:30 Sen. Mandeville has left

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:05:02 Jasmine Crotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
15:06:01 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)  
15:07:36 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
15:08:51 Kellan Standley, Montana Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE)  
15:15:45 Lori Hoppe, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:25:02 Ken Baley, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
15:25:27 Eric Tillman, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:26:01 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:27:07 Sen. Becky Beard-R  
15:27:22 Sen. John Esp  
15:27:57 Sen. Becky Beard-R  
15:28:25 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:28:36 Ken Baley, OPI  
15:29:57 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:30:15 Sen. Becky Beard-R  
15:30:33 Sen. John Esp  
15:31:03 Ken Baley, OPI  
15:31:37 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
15:31:51 Sen. Becky Beard-R  
15:32:42 Eric Tillman, OPI  
15:33:13 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
15:33:23 Eric Tillman, OPI

**Closing Statement:**

15:34:40 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 132.

**HEARING ON SB 19 - Generally revise disorderly conduct sentencing laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:35:45 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 19, Generally revise disorderly conduct sentencing laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:37:43 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:40:14 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU MT)

15:42:11 Nicole Gomez, Montana Women Vote (MWV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:16:59 Sen. Welborn has left

15:26:23 Sen. Lenz has arrived

15:43:41 Sen. Carl Glimm

15:44:12 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU MT

15:44:37 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:45:51 Sen. Ryan Lynch

15:46:10 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:46:26 Sen. Ryan Lynch

15:47:51 Nanette Gilbertson, MCAA

**Closing Statement:**

15:48:30 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 19.

**HEARING ON SB 54 - Revise centrally assessed property appraisals**

**Opening Statement:**

15:49:04 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 54, Revise centrally assessed property appraisals.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:49:52 Brendan Beatty, Director of Department of Revenue (DOR)

15:54:01 Derek Bell, Department of Revenue (DOR)

15:54:23 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

15:54:43 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

15:55:50 Jeff Feiss, Broadband Montana (BM)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:56:57 Jarod Isom, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:57:23 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:57:49 Brendan Beatty, DOR

**Closing Statement:**

15:58:57 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 12, closed the hearing on SB 54.

**HEARING ON SB 89 - Create pretrial diversion pilot program**

**Opening Statement:**

15:59:38 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, opened the hearing on SB 89, Create pretrial diversion pilot program.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:01:15 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:59:59 Sen. Flowers has left  
16:00:27 Sen. Pope has left  
16:03:53 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
16:04:52 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D  
16:06:20 Sen. John Esp  
16:06:34 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D  
16:06:54 Sen. Mandeville has arrived  
16:07:00 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:07:15 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D  
16:07:31 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
16:07:54 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D  
16:09:09 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
16:09:48 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D

**Closing Statement:**

16:10:55 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, closed the hearing on SB 89.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 89 - Create pretrial diversion pilot program**

16:16:43 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 89 DO PASS.**

16:16:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 70 - Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program**

16:17:59 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 70 DO PASS.**

16:17:59 **Vote:** Motion failed unanimously by voice vote.

16:18:15 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 70 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:19:02 Sen. John Esp

16:18:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:20:02 **Motion:** Sen. Mike Cuffe moved that **SB 70 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

16:20:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Lenz, Sen. McGillvray, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 108 - Revise laws related to proof of vehicle insurance**

16:22:04 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 108 DO PASS.**

16:22:04 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 54 - Revise centrally assessed property appraisals**

16:23:39 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 54 DO PASS.**

16:23:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:24:47

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230126FCSaad\)](#)