

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. John Esp-R, on February 09, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Carl Glimm, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. John Esp (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

**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:

HB 15 02/07/2023  
HB 192 02/07/2023  
SB 182 02/07/2023

Executive Action:

SB 121 DO PASS  
SB 148 DO PASS  
SB 160 TO TABLE

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

**Opening Statement:**

15:03:36 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, opened the hearing on SB 182, Create task force on a court system for dependency and neglect cases.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:05:33 Brian Thompson, Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:06:43 Nikki Grossberg, Child and Family Services Division (CFSD)

15:07:00 Jerry Howe, Executive Director of Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:08:22 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch

**Questions from Committee:**

15:08:45 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:09:10 Jerry Howe, LSD

15:09:40 Sen. Mike Lang

15:10:38 Jerry Howe, LSD

**Closing Statement:**

15:11:23 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, closed the hearing on SB 182.

**HEARING ON HB 15 - Implement K-12 Inflation**

**Opening Statement:**

15:12:25 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 15, Implement K-12 Inflation.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:13:53 Emily Dean, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)

15:15:18 Jay Phillips, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:16:09 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:16:31 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:17:32 Rep. David Bedey-R  
15:17:46 Sen. Mike Lang  
15:18:07 Paul Taylor, OPI  
15:20:58 Sen. Boldman has arrived  
15:21:25 Sen. Lynch has arrived

**Closing Statement:**

15:18:35 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 15.

**HEARING ON HB 192 - Use surplus revenue for income tax and property tax refunds and payment of bonds**

**Opening Statement:**

15:23:52 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 192, Use surplus revenue for income tax and property tax refunds and payment of bonds.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230209FCSa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:29:26 Scott Richner, AARP  
15:29:50 George Harris, Montana Coal Council (MCC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:30:45 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:31:42 Derek Bell, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
15:31:53 Dylan Cole, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
15:32:16 Robert Finstad, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
15:32:37 Aaron McNay, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:33:08 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
15:33:35 Dylan Cole, DOR  
15:35:25 Derek Bell, DOR  
15:36:13 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:36:48 Derek Bell, DOR  
15:37:49 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
15:38:10 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:43:28 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:44:17 George Harris, MCC  
15:44:41 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
15:45:14 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:45:29 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
15:45:42 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:47:39 Sen. Christopher Pope  
15:48:11 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
15:50:18 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:50:45 Derek Bell, DOR  
15:52:00 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
15:52:32 Sen. Carl Glimm

**Closing Statement:**

15:53:23 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 192.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 121 - Reduce top marginal income tax rate and increase EITC**

16:12:54 **Motion:** Sen. Tom McGillvray moved that **SB 121 DO PASS.**

16:13:11 **Motion:** Sen. Ryan Lynch moved that **SB 121 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:13:45 Sen. Tom McGillvray

16:13:11 **Vote:** Motion failed 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting yes.

16:16:31 **Motion:** Sen. Tom McGillvray moved that **SB 121 DO PASS.**

16:16:31 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Welborn, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 148 - Revise laws regarding legal representation of children**

16:17:45 **Motion:** Sen. Tom McGillvray moved that **SB 148 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:17:57 Sen. Dennis Lenz

16:19:02 Sen. Ellie Boldman

16:20:57 Sen. Carl Glimm

16:21:09 Sen. Ellie Boldman

16:21:42 Brett Schandelson, Office of State Public Defender (OPD)

16:28:56 Sen. Dennis Lenz

16:29:47 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
16:31:05 Sen. Dennis Lenz  
16:31:20 Sen. Carl Glimm  
16:32:17 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:33:03 Brett Schandelson, OPD  
16:34:47 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
16:17:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 160 - Generally revise drug and human trafficking laws**

16:35:58 **Motion:** Sen. Tom McGillvray moved that **SB 160 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:36:11 Sen. Kenneth Bogner  
16:36:37 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner moved that **SB 160 TO TABLE.**  
16:36:37 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Welborn, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:38:23

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230209FCSaad\)](#)