

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. John Esp-R, on February 14, 2023 at 2:45 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Excused:** Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (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 222 02/09/2023  
HB 251 02/09/2023  
HB 267 02/09/2023

Executive Action:

HB 28

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 28 - Increase legislator per diem reimbursements for lodging and meals**

14:46:55 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **HB 28 TO RECONSIDER ACTION**

14:46:55 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:47:50 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **HB 28 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:47:55 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **HB 28 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:49:05 Sen. Janet Ellis

14:49:13 Sen. John Esp

14:47:55 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Mandeville, voting no.

14:50:03 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **HB 28 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

14:50:03 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Mandeville, voting no.

14:50:03 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Lang

14:51:15 Recessed

15:01:46 Reconvened

**HEARING ON HB 267 - Create SAFER account for federal highway grants**

**Opening Statement:**

15:02:12 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 267, Create SAFER account for federal highway grants.

15:03:54 Sen. Cuffe has left

15:04:06 Sen. Bogner has left

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:04:39 Ryan Evans, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

15:05:27 Larry Flynn, Department of Transportation (DOT)

15:07:18 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)

15:08:10 Brian Thompson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

15:08:41 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

15:09:04 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)

15:09:44 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTPA)

15:10:31 Malcolm Long, Department of Transportation (DOT)

15:11:18 Sen. Morigeau has arrived

15:11:22 Sen. Lynch has arrived

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:12:24 Sen. Carl Glimm  
15:12:52 Larry Flynn, DOT  
15:13:59 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:14:35 Larry Flynn, DOT  
15:15:14 Sen. Boldman has left  
15:16:39 Sen. Mike Lang  
15:17:17 Larry Flynn, DOT  
15:17:48 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
15:18:05 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:18:40 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 267.

**HEARING ON HB 251 - Provide budget stability through investment and liability reduction**

**Opening Statement:**

15:20:02 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 251, Provide budget stability through investment and liability reduction.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230214FCSa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:27:42 Ryan Evans, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)  
15:31:55 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTPA)  
15:32:35 Brian Thompson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)  
15:33:28 Sen. Lynch has left

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:33:37 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:34:17 Sen. John Esp  
15:34:41 Ryan Evans, OBPP  
15:35:57 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
15:36:43 Ryan Evans, OBPP

15:40:25 Sen. Dan Bartel  
15:40:39 Ryan Evans, OBPP

**Closing Statement:**

15:41:35 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 251.  
15:41:48 Sen. Bartel has left

**HEARING ON HB 222 - Provide rebates of property taxes paid on a principal residence**

**Opening Statement:**

15:45:21 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB 222, Provide rebates of property taxes paid on a principal residence.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230214FCSa2\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:50:46 Mark Blasdel, Governor's Office  
15:52:15 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTPA)  
15:53:36 Sen. Glimm has left  
15:54:09 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
15:54:55 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)  
15:57:03 Brian Thompson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)  
15:57:43 Paul Travitz, Riverside Crossing (RC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:59:52 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)  
16:02:29 Tirza Asbell, Montana Women Vote (MWV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:04:11 Derek Bell, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
16:04:34 Dylan Cole, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
16:04:46 Robert Finstad, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:05:20 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
16:06:12 Rep. Tom Welch-R  
16:07:32 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:07:50 Sen. Lynch has arrived  
16:08:10 Rose Bender, MBPC  
16:08:32 Sen. John Esp  
16:08:52 Rose Bender, MBPC

16:11:05 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
16:11:30 Rep. Tom Welch-R  
16:14:36 Sen. Bartel has arrived  
16:15:15 Sen. John Esp  
16:15:38 Mark Blasdel, Governor's Office  
16:16:33 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:17:03 Darryl James, MIC  
16:18:31 Sen. John Esp  
16:18:49 James Rittal, MACo

**Closing Statement:**

16:20:09 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, closed the hearing on HB 222.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:24:19

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230214FCSaad\)](#)