

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. John Esp-R, on February 21, 2023 at 3:02 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. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (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:

HB 212 02/18/2023  
HB 221 02/18/2023  
HB 260 02/18/2023  
SB 186 02/20/2023

Executive Action:

SB 229 DO PASS

**HEARING ON HB 212 - Increase business equipment tax exemption**

**Opening Statement:**

15:03:27 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 212, Increase business equipment tax exemption.

**Discussion:**

15:03:33 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.  
15:03:45 Sen. Daniel Salomon left the meeting.  
15:03:54 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:04:11 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office  
[EXHIBIT\(230221FCSa1\)](#)  
15:06:22 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)  
15:07:21 Steve Wade, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)  
15:07:47 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTPA)  
15:08:50 Rebecca Meyers, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)  
15:09:29 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)  
15:10:02 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association (MDA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:10:45 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)  
[EXHIBIT\(230221FCSa2\)](#)  
15:12:41 Hannah Pate, Montana Women Vote (MWV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:13:59 Dylan Cole, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
15:14:16 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
15:14:34 Kory Hofland, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:15:27 Sen. John Esp  
15:16:08 Bob Story, MTPA

**Closing Statement:**

15:16:56 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 212.

**HEARING ON HB 221 - Revise income tax rates for net-long term capital gains**

**Opening Statement:**

15:17:41 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB 221, Revise income tax rates for net-long term capital gains.

**Discussion:**

15:17:50 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:19:52 Glenn Oppel, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230221FCSa3\)](#)

15:23:28 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTPA)

15:24:41 Steve Wade, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:25:17 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

15:27:48 Hannah Pate, Montana Women Vote (MWV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:29:24 Aaron McNay, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:29:49 Sen. Mike Cuffe

15:30:33 Rep. Tom Welch-R

15:34:38 Sen. John Esp

15:34:53 Rose Bender, MBPC

**Closing Statement:**

15:35:51 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, closed the hearing on HB 221.

**HEARING ON HB 260 - Revise laws regarding legislative special counsel**

**Opening Statement:**

15:37:27 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 260, Revise laws regarding legislative special counsel.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:38:57 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch

**Questions from Committee:**

15:39:28 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:39:34 Angie Carter, Legislative Branch

15:42:17 Rep. Matt Regier-R

15:43:09 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:43:48 Rep. Matt Regier-R

15:44:25 Sen. John Esp

15:44:41 Rep. Matt Regier-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:44:51 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, closed the hearing on HB 260.

**HEARING ON SB 186 - Establish requirements for upgrading the computer system for CPS cases**

**Opening Statement:**

15:45:40 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, opened the hearing on SB 186, Establish requirements for upgrading the computer system for CPS cases.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:47:23 Erica Johnston, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:47:54 Sen. Carl Glimm

15:48:23 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

15:48:50 Sen. John Esp

15:50:08 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

15:51:03 Sen. Mike Cuffe

15:51:25 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

15:52:15 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:53:15 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

15:54:23 Joe Triem

15:55:29 Sen. Dan Bartel

15:55:46 Erica Johnston, DPHHS

**Closing Statement:**

15:57:28 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, closed the hearing on SB 186.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 229 - Reimburse counties for actual witness costs**

16:00:49 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 229 DO PASS.**

16:00:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:04:43

---

Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230221FCSaad\)](#)