

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Wendy McKamey-R, on March 13, 2023 at 3:03 PM, in 335

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Staff Present:** Joe Carroll, Attorney  
Daisy Rhodes, 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 63 03/02/2023  
HB 80 03/02/2023  
HB 81 03/02/2023  
HB 89 03/10/2023  
HB 106 03/10/2023

Executive Action:

HB 81  
HB 89  
HB 106

15:05:32 Sen. Vance has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 81 - Create new state veterans' cemetery**

**Opening Statement:**

15:05:17 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 81, Create new state veterans' cemetery.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:06:37 J. Pete Hronek, Major General, Department of Military Affairs

[EXHIBIT\(230313STSa1\)](#)

15:09:25 Kelly Ackerman, Administrator, Montana Veterans Affairs Division (VA)

15:11:57 Roger Hagan, Montana Department of American Legion

15:13:33 Bill White, Governor Office Liaison, American Legion

15:14:22 Duane Cunningham, Montana American Legion

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:16:02 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:16:26 Kelly Ackerman, VA

15:17:04 Sen. Mark Noland

15:17:24 Kelly Ackerman, VA

15:18:20 Sen. Dan Bartel

15:19:00 Kelly Ackerman, VA

15:20:13 Sen. Dan Bartel

15:20:38 Kelly Ackerman, VA

**Closing Statement:**

15:21:11 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 81.

15:52:29 Sen. Noland has left

**HEARING ON HB 63 - Generally revise liability laws related to armed forces and national guard**

**Opening Statement:**

15:22:15 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 63, Generally revise liability laws related to armed forces and national guard.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:24:20 J. Pete Hronek, Major General, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

15:26:22 Roger Hagan, Montana American Legion

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:27:50 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:33:12 Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard

**Questions from Committee:**

15:35:30 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

15:39:40 Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard

15:41:01 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:44:27 Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard

15:45:24 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:45:57 Al Smith, MTLA

15:49:36 Sen. Mark Noland

15:51:16 Roger Hagan, AL  
15:51:52 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
15:57:06 Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard  
15:57:21 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:59:29 Al Smith, MTLA  
16:00:04 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
16:00:32 Al Smith, MTLA  
16:01:13 Sen. Mike Fox

**Closing Statement:**

16:02:47 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, closed the hearing on HB 63.  
  
16:07:01 Sen. Bartel has left

**HEARING ON HB 80 - Adopt most recent federal military codes and regulations**

**Opening Statement:**

16:06:59 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 80, Adopt most recent federal military codes and regulations.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:08:27 J. Pete Hronek, Major General, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)  
16:10:53 Roger Hagan, Montana National Guard (MNG)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:12:41 Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard

**Questions from Committee:**

16:13:37 Sen. Theresa Manzella

16:14:58 Todd Wayne, MNG  
16:16:25 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey  
16:17:08 Major General J. Pete Hronek

**Closing Statement:**

16:18:18 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 80.  
  
16:26:55 Chair Cuffe has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 89 - Revise laws related to Montana national guard life insurance and court martials**

**Opening Statement:**

16:19:49 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, opened the hearing on HB 89, Revise laws related to Montana national guard life insurance and court martials.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:20:38 J. Pete Hronek, Major General, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)  
16:22:39 Roger Hagan, Montana National Guard

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:24:36 Todd Wayne, Major, Montana National Guard

**Questions from Committee:**

16:25:24 Sen. Janet Ellis  
16:26:16 Todd Wayne, MNG  
16:28:25 Vice Chair Denise Hayman  
16:28:53 Todd Wayne, MNG

**Closing Statement:**

16:30:13 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, closed the hearing on HB 89.

**HEARING ON HB 106 - Revise laws related to federal mitigation funding**

**Opening Statement:**

16:31:18 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 106, Revise laws related to federal mitigation funding.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:33:46 J.Pete Hronek, Major General, Department of Military Offices

16:34:44 Delila Bruno, Administrator, Disaster Emergency Services Division (DES)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:38:51 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

16:42:48 Delila Bruno, DES

16:43:34 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

**Closing Statement:**

16:43:48 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 106.

16:45:28 **Recessed**

17:06:37 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 81 - Create new state veterans' cemetery**

17:06:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 81 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:41:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:06:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. John Fuller

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 89 - Revise laws related to Montana national guard life insurance and court martials**

17:08:39 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 89 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:41:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:08:39 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Fox

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 106 - Revise laws related to federal mitigation funding**

17:10:02 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 106 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:41:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:10:02 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Wendy McKamey

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:12:41

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Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230313STSaad\)](#)