

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Daniel Salomon-R, on March 15, 2023 at 3:03 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Daniel Salomon, Chair (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

Staff Present: Pad McCracken, Research Analyst
Lynnette Sena, 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 91 03/09/2023
HB 334 03/13/2023
SR 32 01/26/2023
SR 51 02/09/2023

Executive Action:

HB 117 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 171 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 240 BE CONCURRED IN
SR 31 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
SR 47 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
AS AMENDED
SR 32 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
SR 51 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
HB 334 BE CONCURRED IN

15:04:32 Sen. Hertz has arrived

15:04:49 SR 51 and SR 32 were heard simultaneously, the minutes are in SR 32

HEARING ON SR 32 - Confirm governor's appointee for board of regents of higher education

Opening Statement:

15:04:50 Chair Daniel Salomon (R), SD 47, opened the hearing on SR 32, Confirm governor's appointee for board of regents of higher education.

Proponent Testimony:

15:05:17 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230315EDSa1\)](#)

15:07:19 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:11:22 Norris Blossom, appointee

15:13:33 Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

15:14:39 Maggie Bell, Montana Associated Students

15:14:56 Todd Buchanan, Board of Regents

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:17:16 Sen. John Fuller

15:18:43 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:24:22 Sen. John Fuller

15:26:18 Norris Blossom, appointee

15:26:57 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:28:28 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:29:54 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:32:19 Norris Blossom, appointee

15:32:42 Sen. Keith Regier

15:33:31 Norris Blossom, appointee

15:33:50 Sen. Keith Regier

15:34:45 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:35:25 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:41:00 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:41:59 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:45:08 Norris Blossom, appointee

15:46:02 Sen. Keith Regier

15:46:30 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:49:16 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:51:00 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:52:12 Sen. Greg Hertz

15:53:24 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:54:23 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

15:54:52 Jeff Southworth, appointee

15:55:20 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

Closing Statement:

15:55:58 Chair Daniel Salomon (R), SD 47, closed the hearing on SR 32.

15:56:59 **Recessed**

15:58:30 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

15:59:00 Sen. Hertz has left

15:59:29 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 91 - Revise laws related to public library state aid

Opening Statement:

15:59:50 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 91, Revise laws related to public library state aid.

Proponent Testimony:

16:01:24 Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian, Montana State Library (MSL)

[EXHIBIT\(230315EDSa2\)](#)

16:05:23 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association (MLA)

16:05:37 Sen. Keith Regier left the meeting.

16:06:28 John Finn, Director, Lewis and Clark Library

16:07:31 Sen. Fuller left the meeting.

16:08:23 Tal Goldin, self

16:09:14 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:10:04 Alissa Wolenetz, Montana Library Association

16:11:42 Sen. O'Brien has arrived

16:12:59 Susie McIntyre, Director, Great Falls Public Library

16:14:46 Joy Bridwell, Director, Stone Child College/Rocky Boy Community Library (Stone Child College Library)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:17:39 Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting and Learning Librarian, Montana State Library (MSL)

Questions from Committee:

16:18:04 Sen. Andrea Olsen
16:19:13 John Finn, Lewis and Clark Library
16:20:20 Chair Daniel Salomon
16:21:11 Jennie Stapp, MSL
16:21:33 Sen. Andrea Olsen
16:22:08 Jennie Stapp, MSL
16:23:11 Sen. Andrea Olsen
16:24:06 Joy Bridwell, Stone Child College Library
16:24:53 Chair Daniel Salomon
16:25:02 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
16:25:57 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:27:03 Joy Bridwell, Stone Child College Library
16:27:10 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:31:29 Jennie Stapp, MSL

Closing Statement:

16:32:14 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 91.

16:39:18 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

HEARING ON HB 334 - Revise school attendance laws to address student mental health needs

Opening Statement:

16:34:31 Rep. Laurie Bishop (D), HD 60, opened the hearing on HB 334, Revise school attendance laws to address student mental health needs.

Proponent Testimony:

16:38:22 Colleen Rahn, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Montana

16:39:10 Tal Goldin, Disability Rights Montana (DRM)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:43:22 Chair Daniel Salomon

16:45:45 Rep. Laurie Bishop

16:46:10 Sen. Andrea Olsen

16:46:56 Tal Goldin, DRM

16:47:34 Sen. Daniel Emrich

16:49:24 Rep. Laurie Bishop

Closing Statement:

16:51:52 Rep. Laurie Bishop (D), HD 60, closed the hearing on HB 334.

16:55:26 **Recessed**

17:08:56 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 117 - Generally revise working retiree laws under TRS

17:09:10 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **HB 117 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:09:12 Chair Daniel Salomon

17:09:41 Pad McCracken

17:10:02 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

17:09:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:09:10 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Salomon

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 171 - Revise education laws related to residential treatment facilities

17:11:31 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **HB 171 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:11:36 Chair Daniel Salomon

17:11:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:11:31 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Salomon

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 240 - Revise outdated reference for family education savings program laws

17:12:43 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **HB 240 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:12:50 Chair Daniel Salomon

17:12:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:12:43 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Emrich

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 31 - Confirm governor's appointees for historical society board of trustees

17:13:31 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SR 31 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

17:13:36 Chair Daniel Salomon

17:13:43 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

17:14:03 Sen. Daniel Emrich

17:13:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 47 - Confirm governor's appointees for the Montana arts council

Discussion:

17:14:35 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

17:14:39 Chair Daniel Salomon

- 17:15:09 Sen. Andrea Olsen
- 17:15:11 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:15:22 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel
- 17:15:27 Sen. Andrea Olsen
- 17:15:42 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:15:47 Sen. Andrea Olsen
- 17:15:50 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:16:02 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel
- 17:16:09 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:16:26 Pad McCracken
- 17:17:10 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:17:22 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 17:17:50 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:17:56 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SR 47 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**
- 17:17:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 17:18:22 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SR 47 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:18:47 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:18:22 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Olsen, voting no.
- 17:19:25 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SR 47 RESOLUTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**
- 17:19:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 32 - Confirm governor's appointee for board of regents of higher education

- 17:20:24 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SR 32 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:20:29 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 17:20:24 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 51 - Confirm governor's appointee for board of regents of higher education

17:21:13 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SR 51 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

17:21:28 Chair Daniel Salomon

17:21:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 334 - Revise school attendance laws to address student mental health needs

17:22:13 **Motion:** Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **HB 334 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:22:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:22:13 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:24:27

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230315EDSaad\)](#)