

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

Call to Order: Chair Daniel Salomon-R, on March 24, 2023 at 3:11 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. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
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 203 03/17/2023

HB 214 03/17/2023

HB 257 03/21/2023

Executive Action:

15:12:35 Sen. Regier has left

HEARING ON HB 257 - Revise education laws related to advanced opportunities program

Opening Statement:

15:12:40 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 257, Revise education laws related to advanced opportunities program.

15:13:19 Sen. Fuller has arrived

Proponent Testimony:

15:14:04 Sarah Swanson, Director of Strategic Engagement, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

[EXHIBIT\(230324EDSa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230324EDSa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230324EDSa3\)](#)

15:20:58 Lance Melton, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMP)

15:22:39 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:23:23 Aidan Myhre, Miles Community College, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College

15:24:29 David Smith, Executive Director, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

15:26:29 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:27:33 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association

15:28:23 Helen Thigpen, Montana University System (MUS)

15:29:12 Heather Hoyer, Executive Director, Great Falls Public Schools

15:33:14 Sen. Greg Hertz left the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:36:28 Krystal Smith, Montana Advanced Opportunity Program Manager, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

15:37:06 Sen. Shannon O'Brien
15:37:41 Sarah Swanson, DLI
15:38:55 Sen. Daniel Emrich
15:40:13 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Governor's Office
15:40:34 Chair Daniel Salomon
15:40:53 Lance Melton, CAMP
15:41:24 Sen. Daniel Emrich
15:41:48 Sarah Swanson, DLI
15:42:35 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty
15:43:02 Sarah Swanson, DLI
15:44:19 Chair Daniel Salomon
15:44:47 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

Closing Statement:

15:45:05 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 257.
15:46:42 **Recessed**
15:46:58 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 203 - Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities

Opening Statement:

15:47:34 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 203, Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities.

[EXHIBIT\(230324EDSa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

- 15:51:56 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Governor's Office
- 15:53:19 Lance Melton, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMP)
- 15:57:20 Tal Goldin, Supervising Attorney for Education, Employment and Benefits, Disability Rights Montana
- 16:01:53 Charles Denowh, Yes Every Kid (YEK)
- [EXHIBIT\(230324EDSa5\)](#)
- 16:04:00 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity
- 16:05:40 Jude Schwalbach, Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 16:08:24 Barb Quinn, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

- 16:08:46 Sen. John Fuller
- 16:10:17 Lance Melton, CAMP
- 16:11:32 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 16:14:55 Lance Melton, CAMP
- 16:16:22 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 16:18:53 Lance Melton, CAMP
- 16:19:33 Sen. Shannon O'Brien
- 16:20:11 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 16:20:22 Sen. John Fuller
- 16:20:28 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 16:20:51 Rep. David Bedey

16:26:26 Sen. Andrea Olsen

16:27:00 Rep. David Bedey

Closing Statement:

16:27:31 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 203.

HEARING ON HB 214 - Revise education laws related to remote instruction

Opening Statement:

16:28:46 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 214, Revise education laws related to remote instruction.

Proponent Testimony:

16:32:05 Lance Melton, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMP)

16:35:32 Larry Hendrickson, Liberty County Commissioner, Liberty County

16:36:01 Mike Talia, Lehrerleut HB, LLC

16:38:39 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Governor's Office

16:39:14 Sara Tempel, Director, Bear Paw Special Education Cooperative

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:55:14 Barb Quinn, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

16:55:32 Sen. Hertz has arrived

Questions from Committee:

16:55:54 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

16:56:21 Barb Quinn, OPI

16:56:39 Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Closing Statement:

16:59:57 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 214.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:00:51

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230324EDSaad\)](#)