

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

Call to Order: Chair Mike Cuffe-R, on March 27, 2023 at 3:21 PM, in 335

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Mike Cuffe, Chair (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
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 264 03/14/2023
HB 298 03/14/2023
HB 585 03/14/2023
HB 663 03/14/2023
HJ 14 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

HB 108 TO TABLE
HB 663 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 264 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 298 DEFERRED ACTION
HB 585 BE CONCURRED IN
HJ 14 BE CONCURRED IN

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 108 - Revise requirements for establishing alternative hours for local DOR offices

- 15:22:09 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 108 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 15:22:14 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Dan Bartel moved that **HB 108 TO TABLE.**
- 15:22:20 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, voting no.
Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, By Proxy
- 15:23:05 Vice Chair Hayman has arrived

HEARING ON HB 663 - Establish a Montana veterans hall of fame

Opening Statement:

- 15:23:41 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 663, Establish a Montana veterans hall of fame.
- 15:24:50 Chair Cuffe has left
- 15:24:58 Sen. Fox has arrived
- 15:25:11 Sen. Noland has left

Proponent Testimony:

- 15:26:53 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- 15:27:37 Roger Hagan, Montana American Legion, National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations
- 15:28:20 Kelly Ackerman, Administrator, Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD)
- 15:28:46 Sen. Manzella has left

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

- 15:29:43 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

15:30:28 Rep. Scot Kerns-R
15:30:56 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick
15:31:07 Kelly Ackerman, MVAD
15:31:17 Sen. Noland has arrived

Closing Statement:

15:31:41 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, closed the hearing on HB 663.

HEARING ON HB 264 - Establish decennial veterans' long term care needs study

Opening Statement:

15:32:40 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 264, Establish decennial veterans' long term care needs study.

Proponent Testimony:

15:35:41 Roger Hagan, Montana American Legion, National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations

[EXHIBIT\(230327STSa1\)](#)

15:38:55 Ken Simon, Zone Commander, Montana American Legion

15:40:45 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

15:41:06 Bill White, Governor's Liaison, Montana American Legion

15:41:59 Richard Liebert, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:45:27 Barbara Smith, Administrator of the Senior and Long-Term Care Division, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

15:45:47 Kelly Ackermen, Administrator, Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD)

Questions from Committee:

15:46:15 Sen. Dan Bartel

15:47:27 Kelly Ackerman, MVAD

15:48:00 Sen. Dan Bartel

15:49:05 Barbara Smith, DPHHS

15:49:25 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:49:48 Barbara Smith, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

15:50:21 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 264.

HEARING ON HB 298 - Revise board of veterans affairs laws

Opening Statement:

15:51:55 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 298, Revise board of veterans affairs laws.

Proponent Testimony:

15:53:02 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

15:53:57 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Director, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

15:55:25 Kelly Ackerman, Administrator, Montana Veterans' Affairs Division (MVAD)

[EXHIBIT\(230327STSa2\)](#)

15:59:26 Roger Hagan, Montana American Legion, National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:01:41 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

16:02:15 Sen. Theresa Manzella joined the meeting.

16:04:11 Kelly Ackerman, MVAD
16:04:30 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:04:55 Kelly Ackerman, MVAD
16:06:20 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

Closing Statement:

16:07:15 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 298.

HEARING ON HB 585 - Creating a memorial honoring organ donors on the capitol complex

Opening Statement:

16:08:17 Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D), HD 15, opened the hearing on HB 585, Creating a memorial honoring organ donors on the capitol complex.

Proponent Testimony:

16:10:10 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
16:11:13 Sarah Sadowski, Director, Governor's Office of Community Service

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:13:48 Steve Baiamonte, General Service Administrator, Department of Administration (DOA)

Questions from Committee:

16:14:27 Sen. Theresa Manzella
16:14:45 Sarah Sadowski, Governor's Office of Community Service
16:15:39 Sen. Mike Fox
16:15:52 Sarah Sadowski, Governor's Office of Community Service

Closing Statement:

16:16:57 Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D), HD 15, closed the hearing on HB 585.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 663 - Establish a Montana veterans hall of fame

16:19:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Denise Hayman moved that **HB 663 BE CONCURRED IN.**

16:20:11 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Carrier Assigned: Sen. Mike Fox

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 264 - Establish decennial veterans' long term care needs study

16:21:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Denise Hayman moved that **HB 264 BE CONCURRED IN.**

16:21:48 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Carrier Assigned: Sen. Wendy McKamey

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 298 - Revise board of veterans affairs laws

16:23:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Denise Hayman moved that **HB 298 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:23:36 Sen. Wendy McKamey

16:23:39 Sen. Denise Hayman

16:23:49 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:23:57 Joe Carroll

16:24:24 Sen. Denise Hayman

16:24:26 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:24:32 Sen. Denise Hayman

16:24:44 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:24:48 Sen. Mark Noland

16:25:23 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:25:33 Joe Carroll

16:26:04 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

16:26:42 Sen. Mark Noland

16:26:58 Joe Carroll
16:27:17 Sen. Mark Noland
16:27:21 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved to DEFER ACTION on HB 298.
16:29:06 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Vice Chair Wendy McKamey voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 585 - Creating a memorial honoring organ donors on the capitol complex

16:30:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Denise Hayman moved that **HB 585 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:30:37 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:32:00 Sen. Mark Noland
16:32:43 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:33:17 Sen. Theresa Manzella
16:33:39 Sen. Dan Bartel
16:33:55 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:34:37 Sen. Dan Bartel
16:35:05 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:35:15 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:35:30 Sen. Theresa Manzella left the meeting.
16:36:29 Sen. Mike Fox
16:36:58 Sen. Mark Noland
16:37:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Noland, voting no.

Carrier Assigned: Sen. Denise Hayman

16:40:05 **Recessed**
16:58:00 Sen. Manzella has arrived
16:58:30 Chair Cuffe has arrived
16:59:30 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HJ 14 - Acknowledge service of Korean War veterans

Opening Statement:

17:00:00 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HJ 14, Acknowledge service of Korean War veterans.

Proponent Testimony:

17:04:10 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:06:29 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

17:06:58 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway-R

17:07:27 Chair Mike Cuffe

Closing Statement:

17:10:34 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HJ 14.

Discussion:

17:12:23 Chair Mike Cuffe

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 14 - Acknowledge service of Korean War veterans

17:13:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **HJ 14 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:13:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Carrier Assigned: Sen. Mike Cuffe

17:14:57 **Committee Discussion:** Discussion on bills for executive action and bill hearings

17:14:57 Chair Mike Cuffe

17:15:27 Joe Carroll

17:16:31 Chair Mike Cuffe

17:16:56 Joe Carroll

17:17:27 Chair Mike Cuffe

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:17:36

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230327STSaad\)](#)