

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

Call to Order: Chair John Esp-R, on March 28, 2023 at 8:00 AM, in 317

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. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Shelley Vance (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 114 03/26/2023
HB 292 03/26/2023
HB 311 03/26/2023
HB 426 03/26/2023
SB 536 03/26/2023

Executive Action:

HB 311 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 292 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 426 BE CONCURRED IN
SB 536 DO PASS

HEARING ON SB 536 - Provide funding for local government road maintenance

Opening Statement:

08:02:12 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 536, Provide funding for local government road maintenance.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230328FCSa1\)](#)

08:02:26 Sen. Daniel Salomon left the meeting.

08:04:28 Sen. Kenneth Bogner joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

08:07:34 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

08:09:20 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

08:09:59 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:11:00 Larry Flynn, Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee:

08:11:26 Sen. Mike Cuffe

08:11:37 Larry Flynn, MDT

08:12:08 Sen. Mike Cuffe

08:12:14 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

08:13:07 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

08:13:21 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

08:14:19 Sen. Dan Bartel

08:14:47 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

08:15:11 Sen. Tom McGillvray

08:15:23 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

08:15:43 Chair John Esp

08:16:03 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

Closing Statement:

08:16:56 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 536.

HEARING ON HB 311 - Establish a chemical dependency treatment voucher program

Opening Statement:

08:17:41 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, opened the hearing on HB 311, Establish a chemical dependency treatment voucher program.

Proponent Testimony:

08:21:52 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU MT)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:22:57 Gene Hermanson, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

08:23:30 Sen. Mike Cuffe

08:23:59 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

08:26:01 Sen. Dennis Lenz

08:26:23 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

08:27:32 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

08:28:34 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

08:28:56 Sen. Christopher Pope

08:29:25 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

08:29:44 Chair John Esp

08:30:29 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS
08:31:04 Sen. Mike Lang
08:31:25 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS
08:32:42 Sen. Dan Bartel
08:32:56 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS
08:33:22 Sen. Dennis Lenz
08:33:40 Gene Hermanson, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

08:34:09 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, closed the hearing on HB 311.

HEARING ON HB 426 - Revising laws relating to inmates approaching parole eligibility or discharge

Opening Statement:

08:36:33 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, opened the hearing on HB 426, Revising laws relating to inmates approaching parole eligibility or discharge.

Discussion:

08:36:45 Chair John Esp left the meeting.
08:38:00 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

08:41:32 Erin McGowan, Montana Community Corrections Association (MCCA)
08:43:58 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU)
08:45:17 David Armstrong, Montana Community Corrections Association (MCCA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:47:35 Scott Eychner, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Questions from Committee:

08:48:07 Sen. Tom McGillvray
08:48:13 Scott Eychner, DOC
08:49:58 Sen. Dennis Lenz
08:50:23 Sen. Forrest Mandeville left the meeting.
08:51:00 Rep. Michael Yakawich-R
08:51:24 Sen. Dennis Lenz
08:51:47 Scott Eychner, DOC
08:53:00 Sen. Dennis Lenz
08:53:13 David Armstrong, MCCA
08:56:11 Sen. John Fuller
08:56:29 Scott Eychner, DOC
08:57:06 Sen. Tom McGillvray
08:57:32 David Armstrong, MCCA
08:58:13 Chair John Esp joined the meeting.
08:59:36 Vice Chair Carl Glimm
08:59:58 David Armstrong, MCCA
09:00:41 Sen. Christopher Pope
09:01:19 Scott Eychner, DOC
09:03:22 Sen. Mike Cuffe
09:04:01 David Armstrong, MCCA
09:05:26 Sen. Dennis Lenz
09:05:58 Scott Eychner, DOC
09:07:58 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

09:08:29 Scott Eychner, DOC

Closing Statement:

09:13:43 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, closed the hearing on HB 426.

HEARING ON HB 114 - Revise timelines for water right permit and change process

Opening Statement:

09:15:49 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 114, Revise timelines for water right permit and change process.

Proponent Testimony:

09:17:14 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

09:19:44 Sen. Forrest Mandeville joined the meeting.

09:20:12 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Association (SWRA)

09:21:09 Sen. John Fuller left the meeting.

09:21:46 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

09:22:34 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSA)

09:23:00 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.

09:23:09 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

09:23:53 Cory Shaw, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

09:24:51 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:25:41 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

09:25:52 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC

09:27:58 Vice Chair Janet Ellis
09:28:14 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC
09:30:49 Vice Chair Carl Glimm
09:31:06 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC
09:33:16 Sen. Mike Lang
09:33:56 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC
09:38:01 Sen. Christopher Pope left the meeting.
09:38:05 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.
09:38:37 Sen. Mike Cuffe
09:39:28 Anna Pakenham-Stevenson, DNRC
09:42:05 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn
09:42:31 Rep. Sue Vinton-R
09:43:26 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.
09:44:27 Sen. Dennis Lenz left the meeting.
09:44:41 Sen. Dan Bartel
09:45:07 Rep. Sue Vinton-R
09:46:40 Chair John Esp

Closing Statement:

09:47:24 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 114.

HEARING ON HB 292 - Make board of public accountants enterprise fund permanent

Opening Statement:

09:48:49 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 292, Make board of public accountants enterprise fund permanent.

Discussion:

09:49:17 Sen. Shelley Vance joined the meeting.
09:49:29 Sen. Daniel Salomon joined the meeting.
09:49:33 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.
09:50:02 Sen. Dennis Lenz joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

09:50:26 Allen Lloyd, Montana Society of CPAs (MSCPA)

[EXHIBIT\(230328FCSa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230328FCSa3\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:52:47 Erin Weisgerber, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Questions from Committee:

09:53:21 Sen. Mike Lang
09:53:54 Erin Weisgerber, DLI
09:54:10 Sen. Forrest Mandeville left the meeting.
09:54:22 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.

Closing Statement:

09:54:53 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, closed the hearing on HB 292.

09:56:18 **Recessed**

10:25:09 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 311 - Establish a chemical dependency treatment voucher program

10:26:10 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **HB 311 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:26:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Mandeville, voting no.

10:27:01 Sen. Lynch has arrived

10:27:08 Sen. Vance has arrived

10:27:14 Sen. Pope has left

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 292 - Make board of public accountants enterprise fund permanent

10:27:22 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **HB 292 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:27:40 Sen. Tom McGillvray

10:27:22 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 426 - Revising laws relating to inmates approaching parole eligibility or discharge

10:28:26 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **HB 426 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:28:44 Sen. Tom McGillvray

10:29:14 Sen. Mike Cuffe

10:30:03 Sen. Tom McGillvray

10:30:45 Sen. Mike Lang

10:31:00 Sen. Ryan Lynch

10:28:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 536 - Provide funding for local government road maintenance

10:32:05 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 536 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:32:25 Sen. Ryan Lynch

10:33:00 Chair John Esp

10:32:05 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lang, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Welborn, voting no.
Sen. Boldman, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Pope, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:36:41

Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230328FCSaad\)](#)