

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Carl Glimm-R, on April 04, 2023 at 8:02 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. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

**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 6 04/01/2023  
HB 7 04/01/2023  
HB 8 04/01/2023  
HB 10 04/01/2023

HB 11 04/01/2023  
HB 817 04/01/2023  
Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 817 - Provide for capital projects**

**Opening Statement:**

08:03:49 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 817, Provide for capital projects.

**Discussion:**

08:08:07 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn left the meeting.

08:08:18 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:09:54 Rep. Mike Hopkins, HD92

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:10:19 Russ Katherman, Department of Administration (DOA)

08:10:56 Cynthia Wolken, Department of Corrections (DOC)

08:11:09 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.

**Questions from Committee:**

08:11:33 Sen. Dan Bartel

08:11:54 Russ Katherman, DOA

08:14:04 Sen. Mike Lang

08:14:24 Russ Katherman, DOA

08:15:07 Chair John Esp

08:15:37 Russ Katherman, DOA

08:16:27 Sen. Mike Cuffe

08:16:55 Rep. John Fitzpatrick-R

08:19:30 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

08:19:52 Russ Katherman, DOA

**Closing Statement:**

08:21:45 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, closed the hearing on HB 817.

**HEARING ON HB 11 - Montana coal endowment program**

**Opening Statement:**

08:23:29 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 11, Montana coal endowment program.

**Discussion:**

08:24:08 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:26:21 Renee Lemon, Department of Commerce (DOC)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa1\)](#)

08:27:31 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

08:29:26 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

08:29:53 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

08:31:03 Krista Lee Evans, Dry Prairie Rural Water System

08:31:48 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

08:32:25 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

08:33:11 George Real Bird III, Big Horn County Commissioner (BHC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:34:17 Jason Harlow, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

08:34:49 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, closed the hearing on HB 11.

**Discussion:**

08:35:23 Sen. Forrest Mandeville left the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 10 - Long-range information technology financings and appropriations**

**Opening Statement:**

08:36:02 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 10, Long-range information technology financings and appropriations.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:38:12 Kevin Gilbertson, Department of Administration (DOA)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa2\)](#)

08:41:39 Charlie Brereton, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:42:02 Kerry Davant, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

08:42:28 Laurie Bakri, Department of Transportation (MDT)

08:43:00 Cynthia Wolkin, Department of Corrections (DOC)

08:43:35 Beth McLoughlin, Judicial Branch

08:44:31 Buddy Hanrahan, Department of Livestock (DOL)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:45:13 Helen Thigpen, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (CHE)

08:45:32 Shellie McCann, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:45:54 Kim Aiken, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:46:23 Carrie Albro, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:46:46 Nate Thomas, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:47:17 Sen. Pat Flowers

08:48:05 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA

08:50:49 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.

08:51:17 Sen. Forrest Mandeville joined the meeting.

08:51:42 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

08:52:03 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA

08:53:23 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn joined the meeting.

08:55:17 Sen. Pat Flowers left the meeting.

08:57:00 Sen. Dennis Lenz

08:57:17 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA

08:57:31 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

08:57:55 Carrie Albro, DPHHS

08:58:09 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn left the meeting.

08:59:19 Sen. Dennis Lenz

09:00:04 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS

09:01:43 Sen. Ryan Lynch

09:02:46 Nate Thomas, DOJ

09:03:54 Sen. Ryan Lynch

09:04:22 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA

09:05:27 Sen. Ryan Lynch

09:05:51 Nate Thomas, DOJ

09:06:48 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.

09:07:24 Sen. Christopher Pope  
09:08:15 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA  
09:13:42 Vice Chair Carl Glimm  
09:14:30 Carrie Albro, DPHHS  
09:15:31 Charlie Brereton, DPHHS  
09:18:36 Sen. Dan Bartel left the meeting.  
09:20:22 Vice Chair Carl Glimm  
09:21:37 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA  
09:25:05 Chris Powell, DNRC  
09:27:57 Vice Chair Carl Glimm  
09:28:05 Chris Powell, DNRC  
09:28:50 Kerry Davant, DNRC  
09:30:29 Vice Chair Carl Glimm  
09:31:19 Kerry Davant, DNRC  
09:32:23 Vice Chair Carl Glimm  
09:33:01 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA  
09:34:28 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
09:35:12 Kerry Davant, DNRC  
09:35:52 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
09:36:20 Helen Thigpen, CHE  
09:36:30 Sen. Shelley Vance left the meeting.  
09:36:43 Sen. Tom McGillvray joined the meeting.  
09:36:52 Sen. Dan Bartel joined the meeting.  
09:38:01 Chair John Esp

09:38:38 Sen. Daniel Salomon

**Closing Statement:**

09:39:13 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 10.

**Discussion:**

09:40:46 Sen. Shelley Vance joined the meeting.

09:41:34 Chair John Esp

**HEARING ON HB 8 - Renewable resource bonds and loans**

**Opening Statement:**

09:42:15 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 8, Renewable resource bonds and loans.

**Discussion:**

09:42:37 Vice Chair Carl Glimm left the meeting.

09:42:42 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

09:42:56 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:44:47 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa4\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa5\)](#)

09:47:05 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

09:48:01 Krista Lee Evans, Dry Prairie Rural Water System

09:48:38 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

09:49:22 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

09:50:09 Jennifer Patrick, Milk River Joint Board of Control (MRJBC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:51:06 John Connors, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
09:51:24 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn joined the meeting.  
09:51:27 Vice Chair Carl Glimm joined the meeting.  
09:51:33 Troy Benn, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:52:05 Sen. Daniel Salomon left the meeting.  
09:52:09 Sen. Dan Bartel  
09:52:42 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R  
09:53:02 Anna Miller, DNRC  
09:53:38 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
09:53:47 Anna Miller, DNRC  
09:57:31 Sen. Mike Lang  
09:58:15 Vice Chair Carl Glimm left the meeting.  
09:58:20 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.  
09:58:28 Anna Miller, DNRC  
10:01:16 Sen. Tom McGillvray  
10:01:41 Anna Miller, DNRC  
10:02:02 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
10:02:04 Sen. John Fuller left the meeting.  
10:02:16 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.  
10:02:41 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R  
10:05:46 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.

10:07:27 Chair John Esp  
10:08:08 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R  
10:08:43 Chair John Esp  
10:08:51 Julie Johnson

**Closing Statement:**

10:09:47 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 8.

**Discussion:**

10:09:52 Vice Chair Carl Glimm joined the meeting.  
10:09:57 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.

10:10:43 **Recessed**

10:21:56 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 7 - Reclamation and development grants**

**Opening Statement:**

10:22:03 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 7, Reclamation and development grants.

**Discussion:**

10:22:21 Sen. Mike Lang left the meeting.  
10:22:36 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.  
10:22:58 Sen. Christopher Pope left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:23:09 Heidi Anderson Fohnagy, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa6\)](#)

10:24:12 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

10:24:45 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

10:27:53 Sen. Mike Lang joined the meeting.

10:28:14 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:29:31 Matt Norburg, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee:**

10:30:04 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

10:30:56 Heidi Anderson Fohnagy, DNRC

**Closing Statement:**

10:33:51 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 7.

**HEARING ON HB 6 - Renewable resource grants**

**Opening Statement:**

10:34:17 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 6, Renewable resource grants.

**Discussion:**

10:35:01 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.

10:35:14 Sen. Tom McGillvray left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:36:17 Lindsey Volpe, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa7\)](#)

10:36:47 Sen. Dennis Lenz left the meeting.

10:37:39 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

10:38:27 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

10:40:48 Sen. Daniel Salomon joined the meeting.

10:41:06 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

10:42:47 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

10:44:00 Jennifer Patrick, Milk River Joint Board of Control (MRJBC)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa8\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa9\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230404FCSa10\)](#)

10:46:11 Vice Chair Janet Ellis left the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

10:50:20 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

10:50:21 Sen. Dennis Lenz joined the meeting.

10:50:41 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn left the meeting.

10:51:16 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

10:51:19 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

**Closing Statement:**

10:52:35 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 6.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:55:34

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230404FCSaad\)](#)