

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

Call to Order: Chair Carl Glimm-R, on April 06, 2023 at 4:04 PM, in 317

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. John Esp, Chair (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (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 36 04/05/2023
HB 147 04/05/2023
HB 243 04/05/2023
HB 257 04/05/2023

HB 270 04/05/2023
HB 381 04/05/2023

Executive Action:

HB 257 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 36 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 270 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 147 BE CONCURRED IN

HEARING ON HB 381 - Revise laws related to methamphetamine contamination

Opening Statement:

16:06:30 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 381, Revise laws related to methamphetamine contamination.

Discussion:

16:06:43 Sen. Ellie Boldman left the meeting.

16:06:55 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn left the meeting.

16:07:39 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:09:13 Rick Thompson, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:10:09 Chair John Esp

16:10:19 Rep. Larry Brewster-R

16:10:36 Sen. Christopher Pope

16:10:40 Chair John Esp

Closing Statement:

16:10:52 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, closed the hearing on HB 381.

HEARING ON HB 147 - Enhance Medicaid rates for certain children's mental health services

Opening Statement:

16:11:36 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 147, Enhance Medicaid rates for certain children's mental health services.

Discussion:

16:13:38 Sen. Daniel Salomon joined the meeting.

16:13:41 Sen. Dan Bartel joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

16:16:03 Matt Kuntz, National Alliance on Mental Illness Montana (NAMI)

16:16:33 Sen. Dennis Lenz joined the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:17:33 Meghan Peel, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee:

16:18:00 Sen. Dan Bartel

16:18:33 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

16:20:23 Chair John Esp

16:20:40 Meghan Peel, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

16:21:59 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, closed the hearing on HB 147.

HEARING ON HB 243 - Revise hunter education laws

Opening Statement:

16:22:34 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HB 243, Revise hunter education laws.

Proponent Testimony:

16:26:53 Rep. Neil Duram

16:28:04 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

16:28:45 Matt Leow, Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:30:09 Lena Havron, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:30:39 Sen. Mike Cuffe

16:31:32 Lena Havron, FWP

16:31:38 Chair John Esp

16:31:41 Lena Havron, FWP

16:32:16 Sen. Pat Flowers

16:33:34 Lena Havron, FWP

Closing Statement:

16:34:33 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, closed the hearing on HB 243.

HEARING ON HB 36 - Revising school funding laws related to enrollment increases

Opening Statement:

16:35:38 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 36, Revising school funding laws related to enrollment increases.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230406FCSb1\)](#)

16:37:24 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.

16:37:32 Sen. Tom McGillvray left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

16:43:17 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:44:23 Paul Taylor, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

16:44:55 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 36.

Discussion:

16:45:05 Sen. Pat Flowers left the meeting.

16:45:16 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 270 - Extend sunset on natural resource operation funding

Opening Statement:

16:45:58 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 270, Extend sunset on natural resource operation funding.

Proponent Testimony:

16:46:47 Sonja Nowakowski, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

16:49:07 Mark Bostrom, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

16:49:42 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

16:50:18 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:51:23 Shauna Lyons, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (CHE)

Questions from Committee:

16:51:56 Chair John Esp

16:52:09 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

Closing Statement:

16:52:24 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 270.

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

Opening Statement:

16:53:05 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 257, Revise education laws related to advanced opportunities program.

Discussion:

16:53:16 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.

16:53:21 Sen. Mike Lang joined the meeting.

16:53:25 Sen. Tom McGillvray joined the meeting.

16:54:11 Sen. Pat Flowers joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

16:56:08 Sarah Swanson, Governor's Office

[EXHIBIT\(230406FCSb2\)](#)

16:59:46 Vice Chair Carl Glimm joined the meeting.

16:59:49 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.

17:00:21 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

17:02:10 Sen. Kenneth Bogner joined the meeting.

17:02:27 Lance Melton, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

[EXHIBIT\(230406FCSb3\)](#)

17:07:23 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

17:08:21 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:09:33 Krystal Smith, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

17:09:58 Nancy Hall, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

17:10:29 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 257.

Discussion:

17:11:08 Chair John Esp

17:11:23 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

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

17:12:20 **Motion:** Sen. Tom McGillvray moved that **HB 257 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:12:52 Sen. Mike Cuffe

17:13:01 Sen. Daniel Salomon

17:13:22 Sen. John Fuller

17:13:35 Chair John Esp

17:13:39 Sen. John Fuller

17:26:05 **Vote:** Motion failed 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Sen. Bogner, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. McGillvray, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Salomon, Sen. Welborn, voting yes.
Sen. Boldman, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Welborn, By Proxy

17:15:16 Vice Chair Glimm has arrived

17:16:02 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 257 TO TABLE.**

17:28:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 9 by voice vote with Sen. Bogner, Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. McGillvray, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Salomon, Sen. Welborn, voting no.
Sen. Boldman, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Welborn, By Proxy

17:28:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 257 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

Discussion:

17:28:30 Sen. Daniel Salomon

17:28:38 Chair John Esp

17:28:49 Sen. Tom McGillvray

17:28:31 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 6 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Glimm, Sen. Lenz, Sen. Mandeville, Sen. Vance, voting no.

17:30:29 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 257 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:30:45 Chair John Esp

17:30:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Esp, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Glimm, Sen. Lenz, Sen. Mandeville, Sen. Vance, Sen. Welborn, voting no.
Sen. Welborn, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 36 - Revising school funding laws related to enrollment increases

17:16:20 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 36 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:16:48 Sen. Daniel Salomon

17:17:16 Chair John Esp

17:24:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 5 by voice vote with Sen. Esp, Sen. Glimm, Sen. Lenz, Sen. Mandeville, Sen. McGillvray, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 270 - Extend sunset on natural resource operation funding

17:19:12 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 270 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:19:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 147 - Enhance Medicaid rates for certain children's mental health services

17:20:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 147 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:21:08 Sen. Dennis Lenz

17:21:36 Sen. Christopher Pope

17:20:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 243 - Revise hunter education laws

17:22:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 243 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:22:58 Chair John Esp

17:23:32 Sen. Dan Bartel

17:24:43 Sen. Pat Flowers

17:25:44 Chair John Esp

17:26:15 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

17:26:36 Sen. Mike Lang

17:27:08 Sen. Pat Flowers

17:27:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm withdrew motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:33:01

Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230406FCSbad\)](#)