

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

Call to Order: Chair Daniel Salomon-R, on April 17, 2023 at 3:45 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Daniel Salomon, Chair (R)
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. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
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 393 04/07/2023

HB 549 04/07/2023

HB 562 04/07/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 549 - Authorizing establishment of public charter schools

Opening Statement:

- 15:47:19 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 549, Authorizing establishment of public charter schools.
- 15:49:21 Vice Chair McClafferty has arrived

Proponent Testimony:

- 15:51:04 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
- [EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa1\)](#)
- 15:56:44 Daniel Farr, North South East Rural Schools (NSERS)
- 15:59:17 Jenna McKinney, on behalf of State Superintendent, Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Opponent Testimony:

- 16:00:10 Lisa Melina Pyron, self
- 16:03:06 Adryann Baldwin, self
- 16:05:00 Anna Shchemelinin, self
- [EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa2\)](#)
- 16:07:29 John Bowenhollow, self
- 16:10:46 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union
- 16:11:27 Robyn Mohs, self
- 16:12:03 Pamela Raney, self
- 16:12:55 Barbara Calahan, self
- 16:14:25 Jessie Browning, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County
- 16:16:08 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters
- 16:17:34 Alba Pimentel, Chapter Chair, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County
- 16:19:25 Jessica Kirkendall, self

16:20:28 Joseph O'Rourke, self

16:21:54 Cheryl Tusken, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:24:04 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

16:24:20 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

Questions from Committee:

16:25:09 Sen. Andrea Olsen

16:26:45 McCall Flynn, BPE

16:27:21 Sen. Daniel Emrich

16:31:28 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.

16:31:56 Daniel Farr, NSERS

16:32:04 Chair Daniel Salomon

16:34:12 Paul Taylor, OPI

16:34:54 Lance Melton, MTSBA, CAMPS

16:35:35 Sen. Hertz has left

16:36:34 Chair Daniel Salomon

16:37:10 Lance Melton, MTSBA, CAMPS

Closing Statement:

16:38:04 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, closed the hearing on HB 549.

HEARING ON HB 562 - Authorize establishment of community choice schools

Opening Statement:

16:42:39 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 562, Authorize establishment of community choice schools.

Proponent Testimony:

16:45:48 Trish Schreiber, self
[EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa3\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa4\)](#)

16:47:41 Chip Lindenlaub, self

16:51:47 Russ Simnick, Senior Director, State Advocacy at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

16:52:34 Chelsea Culpon, self

16:55:22 Senator Ken Bogner, SD 19

16:58:03 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

17:00:46 Lisa Melina Pyron, self

17:02:04 Sen. Olsen has left

17:02:18 Kendall Cotton, President and CEO, Frontier Institute

17:03:12 Jenna McKinney, on behalf of State Superintendent, Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

17:04:02 Adryann Baldwin, self
[EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa5\)](#)

17:06:25 Anna Shchemelinin, self
[EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa6\)](#)

17:08:31 Nancy Burgoyne, self

17:10:03 Wyatt LaPram, Americans for Prosperity

17:11:39 Dara Arlint Wilson, self

17:13:00 Barbara Calahan, self

17:14:32 Emily Warhank, self

17:15:57 Carolyn Truscott, self

17:17:13 Donna Elford, self

17:18:55 Tammy Baxter, self

17:19:52 Terri Donaldson, self

17:20:46 Robyn Mohs, self

17:22:32 Luke Hudson, self

17:23:48 Andrew Forcier, on behalf of wife

17:25:26 Kelly Haggerty, self

17:26:42 Lauren Wright, self

17:28:09 Jessie Browning, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County

17:29:20 Rita Schreiber, self

17:31:01 Aaron Rhodes, self

17:32:00 Alba Pimentel, Chapter Chair, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County

17:33:11 Jessica Kirkendall, self

17:34:30 Ashley Liberko, self

17:35:31 Dee Brown, self

17:37:01 Jenny Gondeiro, self

17:39:55 Cindy Keaster, self

17:41:49 Cindy Bumgarner, self

Opponent Testimony:

17:43:36 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

17:45:51 Sen. Andrea Olsen joined the meeting.

17:49:58 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

17:52:17 Scott Walter, President, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)

17:54:51 John Bowenhollow, self

17:58:49 Tal Goldin, Supervising Attorney for Education, Employment and Benefits, Disability Rights Montana

18:01:11 Daniel Farr, North South East Rural Schools (NSERS)

18:03:46 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE)

18:05:51 Kellen Alger, self

18:07:43 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (MT AFL-CIO)

18:10:29 Lindsey Ratliff, self

18:12:04 Kiely Lammers, self

18:14:00 Jenna Martin, Montana National Organization for Women

18:15:39 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters

18:16:44 Angela Wells, self

18:18:54 Dean Jardee, President, Montana Parent Teacher Association (Montana PTA)

18:21:48 Scott Filius, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

18:23:14 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

18:23:33 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

Questions from Committee:

18:24:09 Sen. John Fuller

18:26:04 Tal Goldin, Disability Rights Montana

18:26:38 Sen. John Fuller

18:27:17 Sen. Daniel Emrich

18:28:29 Tal Goldin, Disability Rights Montana

18:29:12 Sen. John Fuller

18:29:23 Tal Goldin, Disability Rights Montana

18:29:34 Sen. Daniel Emrich

18:30:45 Rep. Sue Vinton

18:31:26 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

18:35:28 Paul Taylor, OPI

18:36:28 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

18:36:59 Lance Melton, MTSBA, CAMPS

18:39:27 Sen. Andrea Olsen

18:40:21 Paul Taylor, OPI

18:40:53 Sen. Keith Regier

18:41:54 Rep. Sue Vinton

18:42:05 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

18:42:28 Rep. Sue Vinton

18:42:40 Chair Daniel Salomon

18:44:37 Paul Taylor, OPI

18:44:52 Sen. Andrea Olsen

18:45:31 Chair Daniel Salomon

18:45:37 Sen. Andrea Olsen

18:46:06 Lance Melton, MTSBA, CAMPS

18:46:29 Sen. Andrea Olsen

18:47:08 Lance Melton, MTSBA, CAMPS

18:48:38 Sen. Andrea Olsen

18:49:07 Chair Daniel Salomon

18:49:17 Sen. Andrea Olsen

18:49:31 Chair Daniel Salomon

18:49:55 Sen. Daniel Emrich

18:50:49 Chair Daniel Salomon

Closing Statement:

18:51:25 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 562.

18:53:50 **Recessed**

19:00:23 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 393 - Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act

Opening Statement:

19:00:47 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 393, Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act.

19:02:35 Sen. Fuller has left

Proponent Testimony:

19:03:43 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Governor's Office

19:07:56 Lisa Melina Pyron, self

19:09:45 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

[EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa7\)](#)

19:13:19 Trish Schreiber, self

19:15:54 Chip Lindenlaub, self

19:17:14 Liam McCollum, Americans for Prosperity Montana

19:18:47 Jenna McKinney, on behalf of State Superintendent, Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

19:19:35 Barbara Calahan, self

19:21:26 Alba Pimentel, Chapter Chair, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County

19:23:23 Jessie Browning, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County

Opponent Testimony:

- 19:24:23 Deborah Silk, Associate Executive Director and General Counsel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
- 19:31:30 Tal Goldin, Supervising Attorney for Education, Employment and Benefits, Disability Rights Montana
- [EXHIBIT\(230417EDSa8\)](#)
- 19:38:57 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
- 19:41:35 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE)
- 19:44:08 Daniel Farr, North South East Rural Schools (NSERS)
- 19:46:51 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters
- 19:49:04 Kiely Lammers, self
- 19:51:34 Kat Patterson, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 19:57:41 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

- 19:58:02 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 20:04:28 Amanda Curtis, MFPE
- 20:04:54 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 20:05:04 Sen. Andrea Olsen
- 20:05:56 Chair Daniel Salomon
- 20:06:12 Sen. Andrea Olsen
- 20:06:52 Pad McCracken
- 20:07:10 Sen. Andrea Olsen
- 20:07:38 Chair Daniel Salomon

Closing Statement:

20:07:52 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 393.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 20:09:35

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230417EDSaad\)](#)