

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

Call to Order: Chair Daniel Salomon-R, on April 21, 2023 at 3:06 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Daniel Salomon, Chair (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
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 944 04/21/2023
HB 950 04/21/2023
SJ 24 04/21/2023

Executive Action:

HB 944 BE CONCURRED IN
SJ 24 TO TABLE
HB 950 TO TABLE

HEARING ON SJ 24 - Request study of professional student exchange programs: WICHE, WWAMI, WIMU, etc

Opening Statement:

15:07:33 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SJ 24, Request study of professional student exchange programs: WICHE, WWAMI, WIMU, etc.

15:07:45 Chair Salomon has left

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:10:00 Ali Bovingdon, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

Questions from Committee:

15:10:26 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:11:05 Sen. Barry Usher

15:11:45 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:12:02 Ali Bovingdon, OCHE

15:13:05 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

15:13:20 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

15:14:33 Ali Bovingdon, OCHE

Closing Statement:

15:15:19 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SJ 24.

15:16:11 **Recessed**

15:17:33 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 950 - Establish the Student and Administration Equality Act

Opening Statement:

15:17:57 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 950, Establish the Student and Administration Equality Act.

Proponent Testimony:

15:21:43 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity

Opponent Testimony:

15:24:50 Ali Bovingdon, Chief Legal Counsel, Montana University System (MUS)

15:29:11 Ethan Hanley, Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

15:32:51 Lorelei Michael-Owens, Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)

[EXHIBIT\(230421EDSa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230421EDSa2\)](#)

15:35:44 Robin Turner, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)

15:43:05 Maggie Bell, Montana Associated Students

15:44:24 Elizabeth Bowles, President, Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:46:16 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

15:46:41 Ali Bovingdon, MUS

15:48:34 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:52:12 Ali Bovingdon, MUS

15:53:03 Sen. Andrea Olsen

15:54:53 Rep. Mike Hopkins

15:55:40 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

15:56:26 Ali Bovington, MUS

Closing Statement:

15:57:34 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 950.

16:01:50 **Recessed**

16:10:38 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 944 - Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program

Opening Statement:

16:10:46 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 944, Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program.

Proponent Testimony:

16:13:14 David Smith, Executive Director, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

16:15:14 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

16:16:06 Brett Downey, Great Falls Development Alliance, Montana Economic Developers, Big Sky Economic Development Authority

16:22:05 Maggie Bell, Montana Associated Students

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:23:14 Ali Bovington, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

16:23:56 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 944.

16:26:26 **Recessed**

16:33:35 Chair Salomon has arrived

16:34:38 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 944 - Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program

16:35:04 **Motion:** Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **HB 944 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:35:24 Sen. Keith Regier

16:35:55 Sen. Andrea Olsen

16:36:08 Sen. Keith Regier

16:36:25 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

16:36:41 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

16:36:45 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

16:37:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Hertz, voting no. Sen. Hertz, By Proxy

Carrier Assigned: Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 24 - Request study of professional student exchange programs: WICHE, WWAMI, WIMU, etc

16:37:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SJ 24 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:38:08 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

16:38:48 **Vote:** Motion failed 6 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Regier, Sen. Salomon, Sen. Tempel, voting yes. Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, By Proxy

16:39:41 **Motion:** Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **SJ 24 TO TABLE.**

16:39:49 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 5 by voice vote with Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Regier, Sen. Salomon, Sen. Tempel, voting no. Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 950 - Establish the Student and Administration Equality Act

16:40:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **HB 950 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:40:17 Sen. Andrea Olsen

16:40:45 Sen. Keith Regier

16:41:17 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Hertz, Sen. Regier, voting yes.
Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Hertz, By Proxy

16:42:01 **Motion:** Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel moved that **HB 950 TO TABLE.**

16:42:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 4 by voice vote with Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Hertz, Sen. Regier, voting no.
Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Hertz, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:43:43

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230421EDSaad\)](#)