

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Carl Glimm-R, on April 21, 2023 at 8:03 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. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (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 276 04/20/2023  
HB 321 04/20/2023  
HB 352 04/20/2023  
HB 469 04/20/2023

HB 521 04/20/2023  
HB 649 04/20/2023  
HB 652 04/20/2023  
HB 833 04/20/2023  
HB 840 04/20/2023  
HB 948 04/20/2023

Executive Action:

HB 5  
HB 223 TO TABLE  
HB 424  
HB 917  
HB 946

**HEARING ON HB 276 - Establish a farm to food bank grant program**

**Opening Statement:**

08:05:19 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB 276, Establish a farm to food bank grant program.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:06:24 Wren Greaney, Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

08:08:51 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HB 276.

08:10:11 Chair Esp has left

08:10:26 Sen. Vance has arrived

08:19:26 Chair Esp has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 321 - Generally revise laws related to the coal trust**

**Opening Statement:**

08:09:39 Rep. Linda Reksten (R), HD 12, opened the hearing on HB 321, Generally revise laws related to the coal trust.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230421FCSa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

- 08:13:26 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)
- 08:14:23 Mark Bosrom, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
- 08:14:52 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts and on behalf of the Montana Wildlife Federation

[EXHIBIT\(230421FCSa2\)](#)

- 08:15:48 Clayton Elliott, Trout Unlimited
- 08:16:04 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation and on behalf of the Montana Stockgrowers Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

- 08:17:13 Sen. Pat Flowers
- 08:17:28 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts
- [EXHIBIT\(230421FCSa4\)](#)
- 08:18:12 Sen. Pat Flowers
- 08:18:13 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts
- 08:18:56 Sen. Mike Cuffe

**Closing Statement:**

- 08:19:37 Rep. Linda Reksten (R), HD 12, closed the hearing on HB 321.

**HEARING ON HB 352 - Provide targeted interventions to support 3rd grade reading proficiency**

**Opening Statement:**

08:21:18 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 352, Provide targeted interventions to support 3rd grade reading proficiency.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:22:08 Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230421FCSa3\)](#)

08:22:56 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

08:23:41 Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five Montana

08:23:58 Jenny Murnane-Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

08:24:46 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, closed the hearing on HB 352.

08:25:16 Sen. Morigeau has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 652 - Revise unemployment insurance law relating to benefit duration**

**Opening Statement:**

08:26:27 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 652, Revise unemployment insurance law relating to benefit duration.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230421FCSa5\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:28:51 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

08:29:36 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:30:26 John Elizandro, Department of Labor and Industry

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

08:30:52 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 652.

08:31:02 Sen. Bartel has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 948 - Revise marijuana laws regarding synthetic marijuana products**

**Opening Statement:**

08:31:41 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 948, Revise marijuana laws regarding synthetic marijuana products.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

08:33:19 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 948.

08:33:39 Sen. Lang has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 469 - Revise taxation of horizontally recompleted wells**

**Opening Statement:**

08:35:30 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 469, Revise taxation of horizontally recompleted wells.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:37:38 Alan Olsen, Montana Petroleum Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:39:25 Tyler Flaig, Montana Department of Revenue

**Closing Statement:**

08:39:45 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, closed the hearing on HB 469.

**HEARING ON HB 833 - Establish teacher residency program**

**Opening Statement:**

08:40:14 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 833, Establish teacher residency program.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:41:19 Doug Reisig, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Schools

08:41:42 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

08:42:00 Sharyl Allen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:44:27 Shauna Lyons, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

**Questions from Committee:**

08:44:52 Sen. Mike Cuffe

08:45:05 Rep. Brad Barker-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:45:59 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, closed the hearing on HB 833.

**HEARING ON HB 840 - Revise tobacco tax allocation for state veterans' nursing homes**

**Opening Statement:**

08:46:24 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 840, Revise tobacco tax allocation for state veterans' nursing homes.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:48:27 Gene Hermanson, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

08:49:15 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, closed the hearing on HB 840.

09:00:35 **Recessed**

09:27:40 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 521 - Revising laws related to conservation licenses on state lands**

**Opening Statement:**

08:49:25 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 521, Revising laws related to conservation licenses on state lands.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:51:29 Shawn Thomas, Forestry Trust Lands Management Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

08:53:16 Dustin Temple, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

08:53:40 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited

08:55:00 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon Society

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:56:12 Lena Havron, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:56:48 Sen. Pat Flowers

08:57:38 Rep. Denley Loge-R

08:57:50 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

08:57:56 Rep. Denley Loge-R

08:58:54 Sen. Mike Lang

08:59:53 Rep. Denley Loge-R

09:00:19 Chair John Esp

09:28:21 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

09:28:30 Dustin Temple, FWP

09:29:55 Sen. Ryan Lynch

09:30:25 Dustin Temple, FWP

09:31:17 Sen. Mike Lang

09:33:04 Dustin Temple, FWP

**Closing Statement:**

09:33:21 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 521.

**HEARING ON HB 649 - Implement rates from provider rate study**

**Opening Statement:**

09:35:25 Rep. Mary Caferro (D), HD 81, opened the hearing on HB 649, Implement rates from provider rate study.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:37:43 Jackie Mohler, Family Outreach

09:39:16 Andrew Johnson, Family Outreach

09:42:37 Erin McGowan, Homecare Montana, Confluence Health Alliance, Easter Seals/Goodwill

09:44:28 Sam Forstag, Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness

09:45:27 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association and on behalf of the Montana Hospital Association

09:46:40 Heather O'Laughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center

09:47:50 John Maxmess, self

09:49:58 Margaret MacDonald, Big Sky 55+

09:51:22 David Trost, St. John's United

09:52:32 Jill Sark, Montana Healthcare Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:53:25 Gene Hermanson, Department of Public Health and Human Services

**Questions from Committee:**

09:53:58 Sen. Dennis Lenz  
09:54:08 Vice Chair Carl Glimm  
09:54:30 Sen. Dennis Lenz  
09:56:09 Rep. Mary Caferro-D

**Closing Statement:**

09:56:46 Rep. Mary Caferro (D), HD 81, closed the hearing on HB 649.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230421FCSa6\)](#)

10:00:58 **Recessed**  
11:10:16 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 5 - Long-range building appropriations**

11:10:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 5 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**  
11:10:26 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Esp, Sen. Glimm, Sen. Vance, voting no.  
11:10:26 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 223 - Expanding the disabled veteran property tax assistance program**

11:13:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 223 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:13:34 Chair John Esp  
11:14:16 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
11:14:19 Sen. John Fuller  
11:14:36 **Motion:** Chair John Esp moved that **HB 223 TO TABLE.**  
11:14:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Morigeau, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 424 - Generally revise sustainability of state finance and provide for transfers**

11:15:25 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:15:25 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. John Esp

11:17:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:17:57 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:18:45 Julie Johnson

11:18:57 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:19:20 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:17:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:20:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:20:24 Chair John Esp

11:21:25 Julie Johnson

11:21:52 Chair John Esp

11:20:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:22:24 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:22:48 Julie Johnson

11:23:31 Chair John Esp

11:23:38 Sen. Pat Flowers

11:23:46 Chair John Esp

11:24:25 Sen. Pat Flowers

11:25:14 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:25:59 Chair John Esp

11:26:08 Sen. Mike Lang

11:26:33 Sen. Pat Flowers

11:26:51 Chair John Esp

11:22:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Boldman, Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:28:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:28:39 Julie Johnson

11:29:08 Chair John Esp

11:29:26 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:28:33 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:30:02 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:30:17 Julie Johnson

11:30:43 Chair John Esp

11:30:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:31:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:31:25 Julie Johnson

11:32:38 Chair John Esp

11:33:33 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:33:58 Chair John Esp

11:34:15 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:34:23 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:35:15 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:35:28 Chair John Esp

11:35:43 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:35:57 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:36:08 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:36:58 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:37:08 Julie Johnson

11:37:42 Amy Sassano, Governor's Budget Office

11:39:34 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
11:41:51 Amy Sassano, Governor's Budget Office  
11:42:23 Chair John Esp  
11:42:23 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
11:43:06 Sen. Dan Bartel  
11:44:21 Amy Sassano, Governor's Budget Office  
11:44:44 Vice Chair Janet Ellis  
11:45:16 Julie Johnson  
11:45:46 Vice Chair Janet Ellis  
11:46:10 Chair John Esp  
11:47:43 Sen. Pat Flowers  
11:48:03 Chair John Esp  
11:48:46 Sen. Pat Flowers  
11:49:36 Chair John Esp  
11:49:53 Amy Sassano, Governor's Budget Office  
11:52:02 Sen. Pat Flowers  
11:52:10 Amy Sassano, Governor's Budget Office  
11:31:08 **Vote:** Motion failed 18 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Esp, voting yes.  
11:54:57 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:55:16 Vice Chair Carl Glimm  
11:55:41 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
11:55:46 Chair John Esp  
11:54:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
11:56:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:56:29 Julie Johnson  
11:56:57 Chair John Esp  
11:56:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:57:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 424 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:57:55 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:58:16 Chair John Esp

11:57:48 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Welborn, voting no.

11:57:48 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. John Esp

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 917 - Authorize transfers and other necessary measure to implement HB 2 section B**

12:03:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 917 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:04:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 917 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

12:04:53 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

12:05:19 Sen. Daniel Salomon

12:04:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by voice vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting no.

12:06:37 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 917 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

12:06:37 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting no.

12:06:37 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Carl Glimm

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 946 - Implement provisions of HB2 - Section E - education**

12:07:57 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 946 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:07:57 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Salomon

12:08:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 946 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

12:08:30 Sen. John Fuller

12:09:24 Vice Chair Janet Ellis

12:09:45 Sen. John Fuller

12:10:24 Chair John Esp

12:10:37 Sen. Ryan Lynch

12:10:38 Julie Johnson

12:08:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Salomon, voting no.

12:09:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 946 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

12:12:52 Julie Johnson

12:13:30 Vice Chair Janet Ellis

12:13:33 Julie Johnson

12:13:40 Sen. Daniel Salomon

12:09:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12:14:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 946 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

12:14:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Morigeau, By Proxy

12:14:10 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Salomon

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:15:54

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

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