

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KARL WAITSCHIES**, on February 17, 2005
at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Karl Waitschies, Chairman (R)
Rep. Gary Branae, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Bob Lake, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. John Balyeat (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Margaret H. Campbell (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Tom Facey (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. George G. Groesbeck (D)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Jim Peterson (R)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Scott Sales (R)
Rep. Bill Warden (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee 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 639, 2/12/2005; HB 657,
2/12/2005; HB 667, 2/12/2005
Executive Action: HB 571; HB 535; HB 410

HEARING ON HB 639**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:04:11 **REP. JIM PETERSON (R), HD 30**, opened the hearing on **HB 639**, Constitutionally limit state property tax power.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:09:07 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association
00:11:20 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony:

00:12:00 Eric Feaver, Montana Education Association/Montana Federation of Teachers
00:14:49 Gene Fenderson, Montana Progressive Labor Caucus
00:15:12 Betty Beverly, Executive Director, Montana Senior Citizens Association

Informational Testimony: None.**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:15:43 **REP. WISEMAN**
00:16:58 **REP. WARDEN**
00:17:25 **REP. RASER**
00:21:20 **REP. ROSS**
00:25:45 **REP. BRANAE**
00:27:03 **REP. WISEMAN**

Closing by Sponsor:

00:32:53 **REP. JIM PETERSON (R), HD 30** closed the hearing on **HB 639**.

HEARING ON HB 657**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:37:40 **REP. RICK MAEDJE (R), HD 2**, opened the hearing on **HB 657**, Revise allocation of use of tobacco tax for smoking cessation program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:44:23 Joan Miles, Health Officer, Lewis & Clark County
00:47:34 Jim Ahrens, Chairman, Alliance for Healthy
Montanans
00:49:13 Patrick Melby, Montana Medical Association
00:50:00 Nanette Smith, American Cancer Society
00:50:23 Betty Beverly, Executive Director, Montana Senior
Citizens Association

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:51:09 Todd Harwell, MPH, Chief, Chronic Disease
Prevention and Health Promotion Bureau, Montana
Department of Public Health and Human Services

[EXHIBIT \(tah39a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah39a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah39a03\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:57:07 CHAIRMAN WAITSCHIES
00:57:31 REP. SALES
00:59:34 REP. McALPIN
01:04:03 REP. COHENOUR
01:06:31 REP. FACEY
01:06:53 REP. WARDEN
01:08:44 REP. LAKE
01:15:56 REP. CAMPBELL
01:16:33 REP. McALPIN
01:16:58 REP. COHENOUR
01:17:35 CHAIRMAN WAITSCHIES

Closing by Sponsor:

01:18:15 REP. RICK MAEDJE (R), HD 2, closed the hearing on
HB 657.

01:20:38 Break

01:35:27 Resume

HEARING ON HB 667

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:35:50 REP. DAVID WANZENRIED (D), HD 97, opened the
hearing on HB 667, Purchasing pools, tax credit
for health insurance.

[EXHIBIT \(tah39a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah39a05\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:41:40 John Morrison, Montana State Auditor and
Commissioner of Insurance
01:52:34 Anna Whiting Sorrell, Family Policy Advisor for
Governor Schweitzer
01:54:29 Jeff Buska, Senior Medicare Analyst, Department of
Public Health and Human Services

EXHIBIT (tah39a06)

01:57:55 **SEN. JOHN TESTER, SD 15**
01:59:18 Jim Ahrens, Chairman, Alliance for Healthy
Montanans
02:00:05 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana

EXHIBIT (tah39a07)

02:03:50 Jani McCall, American Diabetes Society and
Employee Benefit Management Services
02:04:45 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce
02:08:14 Frank Cote, American's Health Insurance Plans
02:08:35 Claudia Clifford, AARP of Montana
02:10:05 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent
Businesses
02:12:43 Steve Yeakel, Montana Council for Maternal and
Child Health and Montana Advocates for Children
02:13:41 Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association
02:14:15 Keith Colbo, New West Health Care
02:14:30 Mary McCue, Executive Director, Montana Dental
Association
02:14:55 Keith Olson, Executive Director, Montana Logging
Association
02:15:25 Don Allen, Montana Association of Insurance
Financial Advisors

Opponents' Testimony:

02:16:30 J.R. Chipman

EXHIBIT (tah39a08)

EXHIBIT (tah39a09)

Informational Testimony:

02:39:59 Jim McKeon, Montana Department of Revenue
02:40:53 John Morrison, Montana State Auditor

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:46:36 REP. GROESBECK
02:52:52 REP. SALES
02:55:00 REP. McALPIN
02:56:12 REP. WISEMAN
03:01:49 REP. BUTCHER
03:07:38 REP. LAMBERT
03:10:12 REP. BRANAE
03:11:33 REP. LAKE
03:15:57 REP. WISEMAN
03:16:27 CHAIRMAN WAITSCHIES

Closing by Sponsor:

03:21:45 REP. DAVID WANZENRIED (D), HD 97, closed the
hearing on HB 667.

EXHIBIT(tah39a10)

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 571

03:26:50 **Motion:** REP. LAKE moved that HB 571 DO PASS.

Discussion:

03:26:58 REP. McALPIN
03:27:24 REP. GROESBECK

03:27:49 **Vote:** Motion failed unanimously by voice vote
with REPS. SALES, BALYEAT and CAMPBELL voting by
proxy.

03:28:53 **Motion/Vote:** REP. RASER moved that HB 571 BE
TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED. Motion carried by
voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 410

03:29:43 **Motion/Vote:** REP. LAKE moved that HB 410 be
RECONSIDERED. Motion carried 19-1 by voice vote
with REP. SALES voting no and REPS. CAMPBELL,
BALYEAT and SALES voting by proxy.

03:31:08 **Motion:** REP. FACEY moved that HB 410 DO PASS AS
AMENDED.

03:31:40 REP. SALES arrived at committee meeting

Discussion:

03:32:14 REP. LAKE

03:32:40 Vote: Motion carried 18-2 by roll call vote with
REP. BUTCHER and REP. SALES voting no and REP.
BALYEAT and REP. CAMPBELL voting by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 535

03:34:26 Motion: REP. FACEY moved that HB 535 BE
RECONSIDERED and DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

03:34:35 REP. BRANAE

03:34:48 Vote: Motion carried 19-1 by voice vote with REP.
BIXBY voting no and REP. BALYEAT and REP. CAMPBELL
voting by proxy.

03:35:39

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:40 A.M.

REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

KW/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah39aad0.PDF](#))