

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Vice Chair Jon Sonju, on February 23, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Absent: None.

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 784, 2/19/2007; HB 787,
2/19/2007
Executive Action: HB 787; HB 216; HB 236; HB 166
HB 644; HB 778; HB 598; HB 685;
HB 463; HB 784

00:01:03 Chairman Lake, Reps. Grinde and Cohenour left the hearing

HEARING ON HB 787

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:06 Rep. Alan Olson (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 787, Revise property tax protest law.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:26 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:03:34 Rep. Alan Olson

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 787

00:04:18 **Motion:** Rep. McAlpin moved that **HB 787 DO PASS.**

00:04:26 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. McAlpin made a substitute motion that **HB 787 BE TABLED. SUBSTITUTE MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with Reps. Lake, Cohenour, Vincent and Grinde voting by proxy.

HEARING ON HB 784

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:05:03 Rep. Edward Butcher (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on HB 784, Tax holiday after budget is funded.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:08:15 Rep. Lambert

00:11:34 Rep. MacLaren

00:12:39 Rep. Cohenour returned to hearing

00:14:30 Rep. Erickson

00:17:21 Rep. Lambert

Closing by Sponsor:

00:19:17 Rep. Edward Butcher

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 778

00:19:39 **Motion:** Rep. Nooney moved that **HB 778 DO PASS.**

00:20:18 **Motion:** Rep. Nooney moved that **HB 778 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT (tah41a01)

Discussion:

00:20:35 Jeff Martin

00:21:33 Rep. McAlpin

00:22:23 Rep. Pomnichowski left the hearing and Chairman Lake returned

00:22:43 Rep. Jopek

00:22:50 Rep. Lambert

00:23:14 Rep. Erickson

00:24:25 Rep. Ross

00:24:55 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with
Reps. Vincent, Grinde and Pomnichowski voting by proxy.

00:25:16 **Motion:** Rep. Nooney moved that **HB 778 DO PASS AS**
AMENDED.

Discussion:

00:25:25 Rep. Ross

00:26:21 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with
Reps. Vincent, Pomnichowski and Grinde voting by proxy.

00:26:42 Rep. Lake assumed position as Chairman

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 644

00:27:45 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 644 DO PASS.**

00:28:10 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 644 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT (tah41a02)

Discussion:

00:28:30 Jeff Martin, Legislative Services Division

00:29:39 Rep. Cohenour

00:30:03 Chairman Lake

00:30:08 Jeff Martin

00:32:23 Rep. MacLaren

00:32:30 Rep. Erickson

00:32:36 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with
Rep. Vincent, Pomnichowski and Grinde voting by proxy.

00:32:47 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 644 DO PASS AS**
AMENDED.

Discussion:

00:33:19 Rep. Cohenour

00:33:32 Rep. Lambert

00:33:54 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 16-2 by voice vote with Reps.
Bixby and Cohenour voting no and Reps. Vincent, Grinde
and Pomnichowski voting by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 598

00:35:19 **Motion:** Rep. Erickson moved that **HB 598 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

00:35:40 Rep. Erickson

00:36:11 Rep. McAlpin left the hearing

00:39:02 Rep. Hilbert

00:40:36 Rep. Butcher

00:42:20 Rep. Cohenour

Discussion: (Con't)

00:43:57 Rep. Nooney
00:45:04 Rep. Ross
00:46:01 Rep. Erickson

00:49:01 **Vote:** **MOTION FAILED** 8-10 by roll call vote with Reps. Bixby, Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, Jopek, McAlpin, and Pomnichowski voting aye and Reps. Grinde, McAlpin, Vincent and Pomnichowski voting by proxy.

00:49:58 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 598 BE TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED. MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with Reps. Grinde, Vincent, Pomnichowski and McAlpin voting by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 463

00:50:41 **Motion:** Rep. Erickson moved that **HB 463 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

00:51:10 Rep. Cohenour
00:51:57 Rep. Erickson
00:52:46 Chairman Lake
00:54:14 Rep. Jopek
00:54:37 Chairman Lake
00:55:02 Rep. Hamilton
00:55:11 Rep. Cohenour
00:55:24 Chairman Lake
00:55:52 Rep. Erickson
00:56:17 Chairman Lake

00:56:32 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Erickson made a substitute motion that **HB 463 BE TABLED.**

Discussion:

00:56:41 Rep. Cohenour
00:56:56 Without objection, Rep. Erickson withdrew both of his motions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 166

00:58:02 Rep. Cohenour moved to **REMOVE HB 166 FROM THE TABLE.**
00:58:15 Break
01:17:23 Reconvene

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 463

01:18:19 **Motion:** Rep. Erickson moved that **HB 463 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

01:18:22 Chairman Lake
01:18:37 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana
Association of Counties
01:22:15 Rep. Erickson
01:23:50 Rep. Butcher
01:24:22 Harold Blattie
01:24:49 Chairman Lake
01:24:57 Dallas Reese, Department of Revenue
01:25:11 Rep. Butcher

01:25:17 Reps. McAlpin and Grinde returned to hearing

01:25:32 Dallas Reese
01:25:55 Rep. Butcher
01:26:24 Chairman Lake
01:26:31 Rep. Cohenour

01:28:28 Without objection, Rep. Erickson withdrew his motion

Discussion:

01:28:52 Chairman Lake
01:29:22 Harold Blattie
01:29:43 Chairman Lake
01:30:38 Jeff Martin

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 166 CONTINUED

01:31:24 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote.
01:31:44 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 166 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

01:32:21 Jeff Martin
01:32:31 Rep. Cohenour

01:33:23 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 166 DO PASS AS
AMENDED.** (Amendment adopted February 6, 2007)

Discussion:

01:33:39 Rep. MacLaren
01:34:05 Rep. Sonju
01:34:18 Rep. Cohenour
01:34:25 Chairman Lake
01:34:36 Jeff Martin
01:34:48 Rep. Cohenour
01:35:16 Jeff Martin
01:35:32 Rep. MacLaren
01:35:53 Jeff Martin
01:36:41 Chairman Lake

01:37:27 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 14-4 by roll call vote with Reps. Blasdel, Lake, Lambert, and Sonju voting no and Rep. Vincent voting by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 236

01:38:40 **Motion:** Rep. McAlpin moved that **HB 236 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

01:39:11 Rep. McAlpin

01:40:18 **Motion:** Rep. McAlpin moved that **HB 236 BE AMENDED. EXHIBIT (tah41a03)**

Discussion:

01:40:40 Jeff Martin
01:41:24 Rep. Cohenour

01:41:36 Rep. Vincent arrived at hearing

01:42:05 Rep. Erickson

01:42:29 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote.

01:42:51 **Motion:** Rep. McAlpin moved that **HB 236 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

01:43:10 Rep. McAlpin
01:43:20 Rep. Ross
01:44:18 Rep. Cohenour

01:44:26 Rep. Vincent left the hearing

01:44:45 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously with Rep. Vincent voting by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 216

01:46:03 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 216 BE REMOVED FROM THE TABLE.**

01:46:26 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote.

01:46:37 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 216 DO PASS.**

01:47:01 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 216 BE AMENDED. EXHIBIT (tah41a04)**

Discussion:

01:47:37 Jeff Martin

01:49:09 Rep. Cohenour

01:49:38 Rep. Lambert

01:50:06 Rep. Cohenour

01:51:14 Rep. Jopek

01:51:47 Rep. Sonju

01:52:18 Rep. Cohenour

01:52:28 Rep. Sonju

01:52:51 Rep. Cohenour

01:55:06 Rep. Lambert

01:55:42 Jeff Martin

01:56:15 Rep. Cohenour

01:56:52 Jeff Martin

01:57:22 Rep. Sonju

01:57:43 Chairman Lake

01:59:13 Rep. Erickson

01:59:53 Rep. Cohenour

02:00:36 Rep. Vincent arrived at hearing

02:00:41 Chairman Lake

02:01:07 Rep. Cohenour

02:01:39 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Lake voting no.

02:02:24 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 216 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

02:02:34 Rep. Jopek
02:04:55 Rep. Cohenour
02:06:10 Rep. Nooney
02:06:54 Rep. Sonju
02:07:10 Rep. Vincent
02:07:46 Chairman Lake
02:08:02 Jeff Martin
02:08:41 Chairman Lake
02:09:17 Rep. Erickson

02:09:48 **Vote:** **MOTION CARRIED** 12-6 by roll call vote with Reps. Blasdel, Butcher, Hilbert, Lake, Nooney, and Ross voting no.

Discussion:

02:10:44 Rep. Cohenour
02:11:05 Chairman Lake

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 685

02:13:49 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that **HB 685 DO PASS.**

02:15:10 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. McAlpin moved that **HB 685 BE AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote.

EXHIBIT (tah41a05)

02:17:13 **Motion:** Rep. McAlpin moved that **HB 685 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

02:17:24 Rep. Lambert
02:18:06 Rep. Ross
02:19:14 Rep. Butcher
02:23:29 Rep. McAlpin
02:24:08 Rep. Jopek
02:29:12 Rep. Grinde
02:30:13 Rep. Ross
02:31:04 Rep. Erickson
02:33:24 Rep. Pomnichowski
02:36:23 Rep. Hamilton
02:36:50 Chairman Lake
02:37:03 Rep. MacLaren

02:37:22 **Vote:** **MOTION FAILED** 8-10 by roll call vote with Reps. Bixby, Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, Jopek, McAlpin, and Pomnichowski voting aye.

02:38:17 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 685 BE TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED. MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 784

02:38:42 **Motion:** Rep. Butcher moved that **HB 784 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

02:39:18 Rep. Cohenour

02:39:31 Rep. Butcher

02:40:13 Chairman Lake

02:40:31 Without objection, Rep. Butcher withdrew his motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:00 A.M.

REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah41aad.pdf](#))