

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Bob Lake, on March 6, 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. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)

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 793, 2/26/2007; HB 799,
2/26/2007; HB 801, 2/27/2007
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 793**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:15 Rep. Jack Wells (R), HD 69, opened the hearing on HB 793, Tax credit for contributions to school tuition organization.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:09:36 Richard J. Bryant, Attorney, (Ret.)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:19:48 Eric Feaver, MEA/MFT

00:30:16 Bob Vogel, Montana Schools Boards Association

[EXHIBIT \(tah47a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah47a02\)](#)

00:32:12 Joe Lamson, speaking on behalf of Superintendent of Schools Linda McCulloch

00:33:30 Ginger Aldrich, representing American Civil Liberties Union of Montana

[EXHIBIT \(tah47a03\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

00:34:13 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:34:53 Rep. Cohenour

00:35:39 Rep. Jack Wells

00:40:37 Rep. Nooney

00:41:27 Brian Olsen

00:41:41 Rep. Erickson

00:42:26 Brian Olsen

00:44:19 Rep. Butcher

00:45:56 Rep. Wells

00:47:10 Rep. Sonju

00:49:09 Rep. Lambert

00:50:32 Rep. Hamilton

00:51:05 Joe Lambson

00:51:13 Rep. Wells

00:52:18 Rep. Cohenour

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (Con't)

00:53:25 Brian Olsen
00:53:45 Rep. Ross
00:54:33 Rep. Wells
00:55:17 Rep. Ross

Closing by Sponsor:

00:56:48 Rep. Jack Wells

HEARING ON HB 799

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:05:01 Rep. Ken Peterson (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 799, Impose real property transfer tax.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

01:15:12 Glenn Oppel, Montana Association of Realtors
01:23:11 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association
01:26:51 Roger Halver, representing Montana Landlords Association
01:28:11 Jon Bennion, representing Montana Chamber of Commerce
01:29:07 Errol Rice, representing Montana Stock Growers Association
01:31:45 Pat Torgerson, speaking for Wife Women Involved in Farm Economics
01:33:06 Megan Brower, representing Montana Farm Bureau

Informational Testimony:

01:34:12 Debbie Jurcich, Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:34:31 Rep. Lambert
01:35:35 Rep. Peterson
01:37:08 Rep. Ross
01:39:48 Rep. Erickson
01:40:29 Debbie Jurcich
01:42:24 Rep. Erickson

Closing by Sponsor:

01:43:05 Rep. Ken Peterson

01:49:32 Break
02:05:31 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 801

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:05:46 Rep. Gary MacLaren (R), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 801, Health insurance payments as income tax credit for certain individuals.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:09:00 Frank Cote, representing American Health Insurance Plans, also speaking for Tonya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
02:10:14 Mike Foster, representing Sisters of Charities Hospitals
02:11:53 Jon Bennion, representing Montana Chamber of Commerce
02:13:28 Don Allen, representing Association of Insurance Financial Advisors

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

02:15:26 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue
02:15:41 Erin McGowen-Fincham, State Auditor's Office

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:17:44 Rep. Erickson
02:21:03 Rep. Nooney
02:21:55 Rep. Ross
02:23:08 Rep. MacLaren
02:23:35 Rep. Cohenour
02:24:21 Rep. Grinde

Closing by Sponsor:

02:25:26 Rep. Gary MacLaren

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:30 A.M.

REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah47aad.pdf](#))