

## MINUTES

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

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Call to Order:** By Rep. Jack Wells, on March 19, 2007 at  
9:03 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. John Sinrud, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Eve Franklin, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Janna Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Bill Beck (R)  
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)  
Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)  
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)  
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)  
Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh (D)  
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)  
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)  
Rep. Bill McChesney (D)  
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)  
Rep. John L. Musgrove (D)  
Rep. Rick Ripley (R)  
Rep. Jon C. Sesso (D)  
Rep. Jack Wells (R)  
Rep. Craig Witte (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Edith Clark (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Linda Keim, Committee Secretary  
Jon Moe, Legislative Branch

**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 529, HB 545, HB 815, HB 746, HB  
567, HB 580, HB 592, HB 817, HB  
236, HB 216, HB 566, 3/14/2007  
Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON HB 529**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:26 Rep. Bob Lake (R), HD 88, opened the hearing on HB 529, Increase business equipment tax exemption and reduce tax rate.

**EXHIBIT (aph58a01)**

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:05:53 Rep. Wells

00:06:17 Rep. Lake

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:06:40 Rep. Lake

00:07:00 Break

00:07:05 Rep. Sinrud arrives

00:11:38 Meeting resumed

**HEARING ON HB 545**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:11:43 Rep. Mike Phillips (D), HD 66, opened the hearing on HB 545, Tax credit for business waste and energy audit cost and implementation.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:14:21 Brian Olsen, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:14:38 Rep. Kasten

00:16:55 Rep. Phillips  
00:18:08 Rep. Ripley  
00:19:13 Rep. Phillips  
00:19:27 Rep. Sinrud  
00:21:12 Rep. Phillips

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:21:26 Rep. Phillips

**HEARING ON HB 815**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:22:00 Rep. Wayne Stahl (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 815, Appropriation to pay off general obligation bonds.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:25:37 Janet Kelly, Director, Department of Administration  
00:27:22 Pat McNamee, Financial Manager, Department of  
Administration, Coordinates issues of General Issue  
Bonds  
00:28:47 David Ewer, Budget Director  
00:28:58 Cathy Duncan, Legislative Fiscal Division

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:29:15 Rep. Morgan  
00:29:31 Rep. Stahl  
00:30:10 Rep. Morgan  
00:30:32 Ms. McNamee  
00:31:38 Rep. Sinrud  
00:32:21 Ms. Kelly  
00:33:03 Rep. Sinrud  
00:33:48 Ms. McNamee  
00:34:11 Ms. McNamee  
00:34:17 Rep. Sesso  
00:34:56 Rep. Stahl  
00:36:02 Rep. Sesso  
00:36:28 Mr. Ewer  
00:38:20 Rep. Witte  
00:38:58 Rep. Stahl  
00:39:26 Ms. Duncan

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:39:46 Rep. Stahl

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a02\)](#)

**HEARING ON HB 746**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:41:43 Rep. Ron Erickson (D), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB 746, Allow tax credit for capital construction donations to tax-exempt organizations.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:45:36 Russ Ritter, Helena citizen

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a03\)](#)

00:48:23 Mike Halligan, Washington Companies, Executive Director, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

00:49:38 Mike Munck, Executive Vice President, St. Peter's Hospital Foundation

00:52:58 Peter Sullivan, Helena citizen

00:53:51 Terry Chaney, Director, Intermountain Children's Home, Helena

00:54:54 Betsey War, self, registered nurse, Montana native

00:55:54 Bob Olson, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)

00:56:28 Gail Abercrombie, Montana Contractors' Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:57:40 Rep. Sesso

00:58:26 Rep. Erickson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:00:26 Rep. Erickson

01:00:52 Vice Chair Taylor assumed the chair

01:00:55 Rep. Sinrud left the room

**HEARING ON HB 567**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:01:08 Rep. Roger Koopman (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 567, Montana safety corridor act.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:08:33 James Walther, Department of Transportation

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:09:01 Rep. Sesso  
01:10:30 Rep. Koopman  
01:12:34 Rep. Sesso  
01:14:33 Mr. Walther  
01:16:05 Rep. McChesney  
01:20:03 Mr. Walther

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:20:29 Rep. Koopman  
01:20:45 Rep. Sinrud assumed the chair

**HEARING ON HB 580**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:25:05 Rep. Roger Koopman (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 580, Create incentives for success program.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

01:34:30 Joe Lamson, on behalf of State School Superintendent  
Linda McCulloch  
01:41:35 Eric Burke, MEA/MFT

**Informational Testimony:**

01:45:26 Claudette Morton, Montana Small Schools Alliance

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:50:17 Rep. Wells  
01:53:08 Rep. Koopman  
01:53:44 Rep. Wells  
01:55:05 Mr. Lampson  
01:56:10 Rep. Kasten  
01:56:53 Rep. Koopman  
01:58:04 Rep. Taylor  
02:02:01 Mr. Lampson  
02:02:22 Rep. Beck  
02:06:11 Mr. Lampson  
02:07:19 Rep. Beck  
02:07:48 Rep. Koopman  
02:08:31 Rep. Morgan  
02:10:30 Mr. Lampson  
02:11:28 Rep. Morgan  
02:13:54 Rep. Koopman  
02:14:43 Rep. Franklin  
02:15:28 Rep. Koopman

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:15:50 Rep. Koopman

**HEARING ON HB 592****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:21:28 Rep. Bill Wilson (D), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 592, Highway signs for veteran's memorial.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:23:21 Mike Winters, Montana Veterans Memorial, also speaking for Sam Pappas, Chair, Montana Veterans Memorial

**[EXHIBIT \(aph58a04\)](#)**

02:29:09 Colonel Jim Jacobsen, U. S. Army, Retired; Legislative Chair, American Legion

02:30:08 Dan Antonietti, State Legislative Chair, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:31:03 Rep. Morgan

02:31:53 Mr. Winters

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:32:31 Rep. Wilson

**HEARING ON HB 817**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:33:39 Rep. Dave Gallik (D), HD 79, opened the hearing on HB 817, Fund satellite delivery of public television.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:40:35 Yvonne Gritzner, Friends of Montana Public Broadcasting System (Montana PBS)

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a05\)](#)

02:45:34 Kerry Callahan Bronson, Friends of Montana PBS

02:47:39 Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs, Board member, Montana PBS

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:48:25 Rep. Gallik

**HEARING ON HB 236**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:49:17 Rep. Hal Jacobson (D), HD 82, opened the hearing on HB 236, Residential property tax credit for elderly to account for inflation.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:50:07 Marge Crennen, Volunteer Advocate, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP Montana)

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a06\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

02:51:27 Brian Olson, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:51:54 Rep. Jacobson

**HEARING ON HB 216**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:52:12 Rep. Franke Wilmer (D), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 216, Increase residential alternative energy tax credit.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

02:57:54 Marge Crennen, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana  
[EXHIBIT \(aph58a07\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

02:59:03 Brian Olson, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:59:23 Rep. Wilmer

**HEARING ON HB 566**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

03:00:41 Rep. Galen Hollenbaugh (D), HD 81, opened the hearing on HB 566, After-school capacity.

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a08\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

03:00:59 Suzin Kratina, Montana Afterschool Network

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a09\)](#)

03:07:34 Kevin Barsotti, Counselor, Box Elder School

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a10\)](#)

03:09:29 Mary Ellen Earnhardt, Director, 21st Century Community Learning Center, Boulder

03:13:41 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association

[EXHIBIT \(aph58a11\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

03:16:01 Dr. Claudette Morton, Montana Small Schools Alliance; Montana Afterschool Network

03:18:29 Hank Hudson, Department of Health and Human Services

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

03:18:53 Rep. Morgan

03:19:38 Rep. Hollenbaugh

03:21:03 Rep. Hollenbaugh

03:21:09 Rep. Morgan

03:21:36 Mr. Vogel

03:22:38 Rep. Jayne

03:25:23 Mr. Barsotti

03:26:17 Rep. Franklin

03:26:44 Ms. Kratina

03:28:01 Rep. Ripley

03:28:53 Rep. Hollenbaugh

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:30:10 Rep. Hollenbaugh

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:30 P.M.

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REP. JOHN SINRUD, Chairman

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LINDA KEIM, Secretary

JS/lk

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([aph58aad.pdf](#))**