

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Jon Sonju, on January 19, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Jon Sonju, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Bob Ebinger, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Gordon Vance, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Elsie Arntzen (R)  
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)  
Rep. Tom Berry (R)  
Rep. Deborah Kottel (D)  
Rep. Lee Randall (R)  
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)  
Rep. Janna Taylor (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Margaret MacDonald (D)  
Rep. Bill Wilson (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Katie Butcher, Committee Secretary  
Rachel Weiss, 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: HB 125, HB 233, HB 237  
Executive Action: HB 125, HB 187, HB 237

00:00:02 Chairman Sonju

**HEARING ON HB 125**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:53 Rep. Robert Mehlhoff (D), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 125, Amend law to delete reference to single state registration system.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:00 Tim Reardon, Department of Transportation

00:07:20 Barry "Spook" Stang, Montana Motor Carriers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:08:02 Rep. Mehlhoff

**HEARING ON HB 233**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:08:22 Rep. Julie French (D), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB 233, Increase truck weight limits in winter months.

(Rep. MacDonald arrived)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:11:31 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:12:48 Jim Lynch, Director, Department of Transportation

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:17:25 Rep. Berry

00:17:54 Mr. Lynch  
00:18:31 Rep. Arntzen  
00:19:13 Mr. Lynch  
00:19:57 Chairman Sonju  
00:20:15 Mr. Lynch  
00:20:34 Chairman Sonju  
00:20:40 Mr. Lynch  
00:21:02 Chairman Sonju  
00:21:09 Mr. Lynch  
00:21:31 Chairman Sonju  
00:21:35 Mr. Lynch

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:21:57 Rep. French

**HEARING ON HB 237**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:23:25 Rep. Mary Caferro (D), HD 80, opened the hearing on HB 237, Revise vehicle transfer fees for vehicles transferred to certain trusts.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:25:43 Brenda Nordlund, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:27:34 Rep. Berry  
00:28:02 Ms. Nordlund  
00:28:34 Rep. Berry  
00:28:59 Ms. Nordlund  
00:29:19 Rep. Kottel  
00:30:04 Rep. Caferro  
00:30:12 Rep. Kottel  
00:30:25 Rep. Caferro  
00:30:47 Rep. Kottel  
00:31:08 Rep. Caferro  
00:31:35 Rep. Kottel  
00:32:01 Rep. Caferro  
00:32:28 Rep. Kottel  
00:32:59 Rep. Caferro

00:33:24 Rep. Kottel  
00:33:44 Rep. Caferro  
00:34:21 Rep. Kottel  
00:34:51 Rep. Caferro  
00:35:03 Rep. Kottel  
00:35:57 Rep. Caferro

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:36:21 Rep. Caferro  
  
00:37:00 Chairman Sonju  
00:38:01 Rep. Caferro

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 187**

00:38:39 **Motion:** Rep. Taylor moved that **HB 187 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

00:40:37 Chairman Sonju  
00:40:43 Rep. Taylor  
00:42:15 Chairman Sonju  
00:42:22 Rep. Vance  
00:43:22 Rep. Arntzen  
00:43:45 Chairman Sonju  
00:44:00 Brenda Nordlund, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of  
Justice  
00:45:56 Rep. Arntzen  
00:46:06 Ms. Nordlund  
00:46:48 Rep. Arntzen  
00:47:10 Ms. Nordlund  
00:47:31 Chairman Sonju  
00:47:36 Ms. Nordlund  
00:49:45 Chairman Sonju  
00:49:53 Rep. Kottel  
00:50:58 Rep. Arntzen  
00:51:52 Rep. Taylor  
00:52:30 Ms. Nordlund  
00:52:54 Rep. Kottel  
00:53:00 Ms. Nordlund  
00:53:33 Chairman Sonju  
  
00:53:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote,  
Rep. Wilson by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 125**

00:54:43 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 125 DO PASS.**  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, Rep.  
Wilson by proxy.

00:55:18 Rep. Kottel  
00:56:10 Rep. Berry  
00:56:21 Rep. Kottel  
00:57:11 Rep. Berry

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 237**

00:57:23 **Motion:** Rep. Ebinger moved that **HB 237 DO PASS.**

00:57:31 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Taylor made a substitute  
motion that **HB 237 BE TABLED.** Substitute motion carried  
unanimously by voice vote, Rep. Wilson by proxy.

00:57:56 Rep. Arntzen  
00:58:23 Chairman Sonju  
00:59:32 Rep. Taylor  
01:00:38 Chairman Sonju

01:00:55 Bill Flanery, Missoula, Montana - A gentleman from the  
audience was allowed to give testimony on HB 233.

**ADJOURNMENT**

01:02:49 Adjournment

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KATIE BUTCHER, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([trh12aad.pdf](#))**