

**BUSINESS REPORT**

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

**HOUSE FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009  
**Place:** Capitol

**Time:** 3:00 pm  
**Room:** 152

**BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:**

Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Add Postponed (PP) when appropriate:

HB 166, HB 186

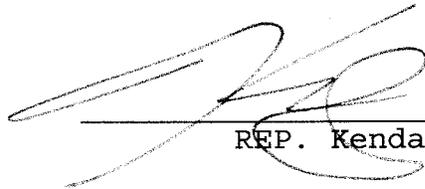
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:**

Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Enter P(pass) F(failed) DPAA (do pass as amended) BC(be concurred in) BCAA (be concurred in as amended):

HB 186 Tabled \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
REP. Kendall Van Dyk, Chairman

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Roll Call**  
**FISH, WILDLIFE, & PARKS COMMITTEE**

DATE: 1-27-09

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT/EXCUSED</u>
Vice Chair McAlpin		X
Vice Chair Hendrick	X	
Representative Barrett	X	
Representative Beck	X	
Representative Boland	X	
Representative Boniek	X	
Representative Calf Boss Ribs	X	
Representative Cohenour		X
Representative Milburn	X	
Representative Miller	X	
Representative O'Hara		X
Representative Peterson		E
Representative Phillips	X	
Representative Pomnichowski		X
Representative Smith	X	
Representative Washburn	X	
Representative Welborn	X	
Chairman Van Dyk	X	

**COMMITTEE FILE COPY**

**TABLED BILL**

The **HOUSE FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS COMMITTEE** TABLED **HB 186**, by motion, on **Tuesday, January 27, 2009.**



(For the Committee)



(Chief Clerk of the House)

\_\_\_\_\_, 3/4  
(Time) (Date)

March 3, 2009

Bryce I. Bennett, Secretary

Phone: 406-546-3629

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING  
STATE OF MONTANA

DATE 1-27-09  
HB 166

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. Box 200802  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: *David Ewer* Representative Menahan  
Representative Van Dyk, Chair  
Members of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee

From: David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 166, Increase DOJ prosecutor for fish and game  
law violations to full-time attorney

Date: January 27, 2009

Dear Representative Menahan and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 166 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 166.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities.

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.