

Montana State Legislature

2013 Session

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Business Report**
- **Roll Call – Attendance**
- **Standing Committee Reports**
- **Tabled Bills**
- **Fiscal Reports etc.**
- **Roll Call Votes**
- **Informational Items**
- **Witness Statements**
- **Any Documents; such as;**
 - ***Petitions if any.**
 - ***Any and all material handed end after the meeting ends.**

**The original is on file at the
Montana Historical Society
and may be viewed there.**

**Montana Historical Society
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BUSINESS REPORT

**MONTANA SENATE
63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, April 12, 2013

Place: Capitol

Time: 8:00 AM

Room: 317-A

BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

HB 377 - Increase contributions and funding for TRS, revise GABA - Rep. Tom Woods

HB 454 - Provide funding for PERS defined benefit plan, revise GABA - Rep. Bill McChesney

HB 580 - Provide funding for governor's sage-grouse advisory council - Rep. Pat Connell

HB 608 - Transfer orphan share funding to natural resources operation/project accounts - Rep. Mike Cuffe

HB 19 - Revise penalty and interest provisions related to tax law enforcement - Rep. Roy Hollandsworth

SB 410 - Authorizing transfers to implement provisions of House Bill 2 - Sen. Rick Ripley

HB 626 - Increase percentage of motor vehicle revenue for veterans' accounts - Rep. Ryan Osmundson

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Comments:



SEN. Rick Ripley, Chair

MONTANA STATE SENATE
 ROLL CALL
 FINANCE AND CLAIMS
 COMMITTEE

DATE: April 12, 2013

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/ EXCUSED
Chairman Ripley	✓	
Vice Chair Walker	✓	✓
Senator Brenden	✓	
Senator Brown	✓	
Senator Buttrey	✓	✓
Senator Caferro	✓	✓
Senator Essmann		✓
Senator Hamlett	✓	
Senator Jones	✓	
Senator Keane	✓	
Senator Lewis	✓	
Senator Moore	✓	
Senator Olson	✓	
Senator Priest		✓
Senator Rosendale	✓	
Senator Sesso	✓	✓
Senator Tropila	✓	
Senator Wanzenried	✓	
Senator Webb	✓	
Senator Windy Boy	✓	✓

MONTANA STATE SENATE
Visitors Register
SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

Friday, April 12, 2013

HB 454 - Provide funding for PERS defined benefit plan, revise GABA

Sponsor: Rep. Bill McChesney

PLEASE PRINT

* without Section 4

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
Stephen Garrison	Retired Public Employees	*		
Lyle Manley	Self	"		
GORDON MORRIS	LEWIS & CLARK Co	✓		
David Anderson	Self		✓	
Roxanne Minahan	PERB/MPERA	✓		
Tom Schneider	MPERA - AFSCME	✓		
Diane Fladmo	MEAMET	✓		
RICK EDWARDS	MEDA	✓		
Connie Erickson	Self	✓		
Martha Voat	self	✓	✓	
Russell Wrigg	AMRPE	✓	✓	
MORE MURPHY	MCCA	✓	✓	
Rebecca Barger	Teachers 190	X		
Chaslang	AFL-CIO	X		
Marilyn Hamer	AARP	X		
Greg Teberg	Self	✓		
Dennis Dietrich	Self	✓		
Charlene Suckow	MT Ret Teachers	✓		
Brian Hoven	Myself		✓	
Sheryl Wood	MAD	✓		
Jim Smith	MREA	X		
John HAWG	Self	W/GABA		

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

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ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS

To: Members of the Senate
Members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee
Representative Bill McChesney

From: Darrell and Carina Zook
(Retired State Employees)
755 Corral Rd
Helena, MT 59602
Phone (406) 443-5499
E-mail (zooker@mt.net)

Date: April 11, 2013

Subject: 3% GABA PERS Pension Adjustment Commitment

Dear Legislators,

We are opponents to HB454 or any legislation that would reduce the GABA for current retirees. When we retired from state employment of over 30 years, our decision was based on a financial plan that relied on the GABA. Not honoring this contractual agreement (some call it renegeing) will foster many new problems and still not solve the pension funding problem.

Some of those problems are:

-Guaranteed future litigation. That could take years to resolve and leave public employees and those retired and planning to retire in limbo for a long time. This would cost both retirees and state government (taxpayers) needless time and monies. When the State set GABA at 3%, employees were charged for the increase in their contributions to the system. They have paid for this benefit. Stop creating additional problems for the future and provide reasonable and fair solutions to a problem.

-Retirees will be forced into a non affordable level of living. Options available would be lower level of living or obtaining assistance thru government programs. In addition, retirees will be forced to start working again and impair the ability for others to find jobs. This would create a work force problem. Would you be willing to have this happen when there are other options available?

-Retirees will move to states with no state income taxes. It's sad that I would be forced to leave Montana where I was born, raised, and worked for state government for 31 years. Now you will not have the same tax base to rely on.

-Current state employees will jump ship and look for employment elsewhere. Why would they stay in a job knowing that pension guarantees really aren't?

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To: Members of the Senate
Members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee
Representative Bill McChesney
From: Darrell and Carina Zook
Subject: 3% GABA PERS Pension Adjustment Commitment

Have you really prepared a reliable fiscal note regarding the effects of reducing GABA? You are ignoring future issues and costs by attacking a symptom of the problem. Approach the pension deficiency using problem solving techniques. Don't create problems for future legislators. That is what your predecessors did to you regarding this issue.

Note: An irony not to be laughed at...

State employees worked many years knowing there was a pension available. The legislature provides GABA as an inflationary compensation. The state workers retire relying on this pension package. Now the legislature wants to renege on their commitment. These people now cannot afford to be retired. They should have stayed a state employee. But wait, didn't the legislature address the older work force issue previously and try to implement early retirement incentives to create new jobs at lower wages and subsequently save the state money?

Remember, your obligation is to proceed forward based on your conscious and to the people you represent and put you there, but lastly to the caucus.