House convened at 1:00 p.m.  Mr. Speaker presiding.  Invocation by Representative Sweeney.  Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call. All members present, except Representatives Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, and Windy Boy, excused.  Quorum present.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Speaker Hertz moved the House to revert to Order of Business #11, Special Orders of the Day, for the purpose of receiving an address by the Honorable Senator for the State of Montana, Jon Tester. Motion Carried.

Majority Leader Tschida moved Speaker Hertz be authorized to appoint a Committee of two members to escort the United States Senator into the House Chamber. Motion carried.

Speaker Hertz appointed Representative Loge and Representative Harvey. The Committee was discharged.

Sergeant-at-Arms Durckel notified Speaker Hertz that United States Senator Jon Tester awaited entrance to the House Chamber.

The Committee escorted the Senator into the Chamber.

Speaker Hertz introduced the Honorable Jon Tester, United States Senator for the State of Montana. Senator Tester gave the following remarks:

Thank you Speaker Hertz, Leader Tschida, and Leader Schreiner. It is a pleasure to be here in the Peoples’ House. I will tell you that there are a lot of new faces. Welcome freshman Legislators. This is an incredible learning experience. Veterans will already know that you have a lot of work to do, and I wish you all the very best this Legislative session.

You are amongst one of the greatest bodies in the United States. I don’t say that because I am from Montana, I say that because it is a fact. We, in Montana, have a citizen legislature the way the forefathers had asked us to set it up. The way they thought it should be set up. Where we elect our neighbors to represent us in the House and Senate of this great State. We come to Helena every two years for ninety days, to make laws. We don’t make enough money to support ourselves, so we have go back and have a real job and we have to live under those rules that we have created.

I say congratulations to you for being a part of this great body. Just know this, you are at the beginning of this session, as it moves forward and this session gets a little wild, you will not be the
craziest legislative branch in this country. The United States Senate will bump you off that hill, I guarantee you.

You have a lot of important issues to talk about this session and I am going to just touch on a few. I hesitate to do this because when Conrad Burns and Max Baucus used to come when I was sitting in those chairs, and they came in to talk, I would go, come on man, "We are going to do what we are going to do anyway," and you will.

Here is a little advice as we move forward from the U.S. Senate prospective:

A big issue you will have to deal with, one of them, is Medicaid—so we might as well just start. A couple of years ago, this Legislature passed Medicaid expansion. If you are after dollars and cents, it is successful. It has saved this state $58 million, generated $47 million in revenue, and it has kept about $270 million in the pockets of Montanans.

I know that there is talk here to reduce it in some form, maybe even eliminate it by some. I would say to those of you who will make that decision, which is all of you, don’t make it a political issue. Make it an issue about people.

After the election in 2016, I went around the state and had a series of roundtables on healthcare. I talked to many of the patients, doctors, and hospital officials around the state. One of the patients that I talked to told me a story that I remember vividly.

He is from Butte and about forty years old. He said that he has had some level of diabetes his whole life and has never been able to get it taken care of. By his own admission he said that he has had some level of mental health issues since being an adult, and has never been able to get that taken care of. Then the legislature passed Medicaid expansion. He said he was able to get his diabetes under control for the first time in his life. He said he was able to go and see a psychologist to get his mental health issues squared away. He said that for the first time in his adult life, he has been able to get a job, hold a job, and support his family. That is what I mean when I say we talk about people instead of politics.

Make sure that if the effort is to reduce the number of people on Medicaid expansion, you ask yourself what is going to happen to those forty or fifty thousand who will get their health care taken away. Because they have had healthcare and it is going to be very difficult for them.

If you eliminate the program, I would ask you to look at the small hospitals around the state. I live close to one. I live about fifteen miles from my small hospital. If it closes, the next hospital is fifty miles away, one way. You know that, you are from Montana and many of you have further distances than that. We need to be careful. Not only at the state but also at the federal level. Since I am talking to you, you need to be careful, because if these hospitals close in many of these small communities, they may never, and I mean never, open up again. Good luck, with the debate on Medicaid and what you are going to do with it.

The second issue that I want to talk to you about is education. We are hitting the two big ones and I promise I will not talk about corrections. K-12 education; I have the incredible honor to introduce
to you today Tyler Ream, Superintendent of Helena Schools. Tyler is from Texas. I know that has a pretty ring, but Tyler from Montana has a good ring to it too.

Tyler has a lot of challenges as he puts forth his budget for his school district, the same way that every other school district in Montana has. This is important because K-12 education is a foundation of our democracy. Democracies don’t work well with an illiterate society, so we will start there. As you talk about the money that you are going to put into K-12 education, remember this, every dollar that you don’t put in is a dollar that local property taxes will have to make up.

I will also ask you to think back in your life, parents, brothers and sisters aside. If you ask yourself who the most influential people in your life have been, my guess is that it is probably a teacher. Teachers are very important people in our society, very important people in our country. I can tell you right now, there are far too many teachers in our state that are Medicaid eligible or are on food stamps and that is unacceptable. If we want to get the best people in the classroom, we have to be competitive with other sectors in the business world in Montana.

Good luck as you put forth your proposals for funding K-12 education. It is critically important as we move our state forward in this 21st Century economy. As far as higher education goes, it is the same thing. The dollars that are put in, if they are not there, the student makes them up. I will tell you. There are plenty of stories, and they are not just stories, they are fact; about young people graduating from college with $40 and $50 thousand in debt. Not because they are living extravagantly, it is because higher education cost is that much.

For some of you, myself included, if you roll back to when you were a senior in high school, would you have really gone off and got that degree in higher education? Those who have one? In my particular case, I don’t know that I would have, because who wants to be in debt? You cannot buy a house, you cannot buy a car, you cannot start your family. That is not the way it should be. We should be encouraging people to go to college and to be trained. It will help drive our economy. It will help drive small businesses. It will drive our entrepreneurial sector moving forward. Good luck in higher education.

The thing about both of these, whether you are talking about Medicaid or education, it costs money. You cannot do it for free, I have not found anybody who can. So, you have tough decisions to make.

Another issue that Montana leads the nation in, and we should not, is suicide. Montana is number one in the country for suicide. That is for a number of reasons, including isolation and not enough providers on the ground. I did not look through all of the bills that have been dropped in for this legislative session. Hopefully, there is something that is being done at this level to be able to address the issue of suicide.

I have worked at the Federal level to try to get more slots for psychiatrists and to reduce higher education cost with Pell Grants to get more people to go into psychology and into social work. The bottom line is that we have to do some things pro-actively to reduce this plague that is upon us. It will not get better. It is up to all of us; local, state, and federal level, so do what you can do.
On the issue of veterans, I don’t have to tell you that we lead the nation on the number of veterans per capita in Montana. We have been at war for eighteen years. Our medical crew is doing a tremendous job in the field and theater. Folks are coming back with injuries from the field and battle with injuries that they can survive from, and that is great. Some seen, some unseen.

If there are opportunities out there to help our veterans, whether it is reduction in tuition costs or tax credits for businesses who employ them, I would encourage you to do that. We lead the nation in the number of people who sign up. That can be debated, but I will take that statistic. We are proud of our military and the folks who serve. I am looking forward to seeing what can transpire in that area.

And now, my last issue and this is an easy one. Presumptive for firefighters. You have an opportunity to do right by our first responders. Some of you are firefighters. Some are volunteer, some are paid. These are the folks that go running into danger when we run away from it. These are the folks that are exposed to toxins every day. These are the folks that end up having health issues that are a result of their fire fighting and that we have an obligation to do something about.

I would hope that you are able to get the Senate to work with the House to get the presumptive issue settled. I think it is critically important moving forward.

You have about seventy-eight days to get things done. I would ask you only one thing, make Montana proud. God bless you, and God bless Montana.

Speaker Hertz thanked Senator Tester for his remarks and requested the Committee to escort Senator Tester from the Chamber.

Sergeant-at-Arms Durckel escorted the guests from the House Chamber.

Speaker Hertz called the House back to order.

**BILLS** (Ricci, Chair): 1/22/2019


Transmitted to the Senate: HB 39, HB 62, HB 79, HB 82, HB 83, HB 103.
REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION  (Loge, Chair):  1/21/2019

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Senate bills passed and transmitted to the House for concurrence:  1/18/2019
SB 39, introduced by Fitzpatrick
SB 43, introduced by MacDonald

FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS

The following House bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

HB 260, introduced by J. Kassmier, E. Buttrey, C. Pope, referred to State Administration.
HB 261, introduced by R. Fitzgerald, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 262, introduced by B. Mercer, M. Regier, referred to Appropriations.
HB 264, introduced by F. Garner, referred to Judiciary.
HB 265, introduced by K. White, referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 266, introduced by N. Ballance, referred to Judiciary.

The following House joint resolution was introduced, read first time, and referred to committee:

HJR 7, introduced by M. Dunwell, referred to Agriculture.

The following Senate bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

SB 39, introduced by S. Fitzpatrick (by request of the State Auditor), referred to Business and Labor.
SB 43, introduced by M. MacDonald (by request of the State Public Defender), referred to Judiciary.

SECOND READING OF BILLS
(COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Majority Leader Tschida moved the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading. Motion carried. Representative Lynch in the chair.

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Mr. Speaker: We, your Committee of the Whole, having had under consideration business on second reading, recommend as follows:

**HB 46** - Representative Galloway moved **HB 46** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 99

Nays: None.
Total 0

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: Garcia.
Total 1

**HB 68** - Representative Shaw moved **HB 68** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 100

Nays: None.
Total 0
Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total  4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total  0

HB 72 - Representative Marler moved HB 72 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total  98

Nays: Vinton, Weatherwax.
Total  2

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total  4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total  0

HB 88 - Representative Abbott moved HB 88 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total  88
White, Windy Boy, Winter, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.
Total 100

Nays: None.
Total 0

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 90 - Representative Gunderson moved HB 90 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 58

Total 42

Voted absentee: Berglee, Fleming, Aye; Bachmeier, Windy Boy, No.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 96 - Representative Garner moved HB 96 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 100

Nays: None.
Total 0

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.
Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 99 - Representative Garner moved HB 99 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 100

Nays: None.
Total 0

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.
Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0
HB 143 - Representative Duram moved HB 143 do pass. Motion carried as follows:


Total 100

Nays: None.

Total 0

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.

Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

HJR 1 - Representative Hayman moved HJR 1 do pass. Motion carried as follows:


Total 79


Total 21

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.
Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

**HJR 3** - Representative Mandeville moved **HJR 3** do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 90

Nays: Bartel, Beard, Brown Z, Burnett, Glimm, Redfield, Usher, White, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.
Total 10

Voted absentee: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy, Aye.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

Majority Leader Tschida moved the Committee rise and report. Motion carried. Committee arose. House resumed. Mr. Speaker presiding. Chair Lynch moved the Committee of the Whole report be adopted. Report adopted as follows:

Total 91

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11
Nays: Glimm, Lynch, McKamey.
Total 3

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: Bartel, Dooling.
Total 2

THIRD READING OF BILLS

The following bills having been read three several times, title and history agreed to, were disposed of in the following manner:

HB 39 passed as follows:

Total 62

Total 34

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 62 passed as follows:

Total 95

Nays: Olsen.
Total 1

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 79 passed as follows:

Total 78

Total 18

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0
HB 82 passed as follows:

Total 71

Total 25

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 83 passed as follows:

Total 71

Total 25

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total 4
Absent or not voting: None.
Total  0

HB 103 passed as follows:

Total  90

Nays: Beard, Glimm, Gunderson, Noland, Regier.
Total  5

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bachmeier, Berglee, Fleming, Windy Boy.
Total  4

Absent or not voting: Harvey.
Total  1

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker, I move that the following undersigned name be ADDED as sponsor to HB 19
Motion carried.

HB 19 (S. Stewart Peregoy, Chief Sponsor)
Dudik.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the following undersigned name be ADDED as sponsor to HB 21
Motion carried.

HB 21 (R. Peppers, Chief Sponsor)
Dudik.
Mr. Speaker, I move that the following undersigned name be **ADDED** as sponsor to **HB 40**

**Motion carried.**

**HB 40** (S. Stewart Peregoy, Chief Sponsor)
Dudik.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the following undersigned names be **ADDED** as sponsors to **HB 109**

**Motion carried.**

**HB 109** (M. Dunwell, Chief Sponsor)
Malek, McClafferty, and Webber.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the following undersigned names be **ADDED** as sponsors to **HB 202**

**Motion carried.**

**HB 202** (S. Morigeau, Chief Sponsor)
Malek and Webber.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee meetings were announced by the committee chairs.

Majority Leader Tschida moved the House adjourn until 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2019. **Motion carried.**

House adjourned at 2:03 p.m.