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

Roll Call.  All members present, except Representative Bahr, excused.  Quorum present.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Speaker Hertz moved the House revert to Order of Business #11, Special Orders of the Day, for the purpose of receiving an address by the Honorable Congressman for the State of Montana, Greg Gianforte.  Motion carried

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

Speaker Hertz appointed Representative Bartel and Representative Kerr-Carpenter. The Committee was discharged.

Sergeant-at-Arms Murfitt notified Speaker Hertz that United States Congressman, Greg Gianforte awaited entrance to the House Chamber.

The Committee escorted the Congressman into the Chamber.

Speaker Hertz introduced the Honorable Greg Gianforte, United States Congressman for the State of Montana. Congressman Gianforte gave the following remarks:

Mr. Speaker, members of the legislature, other officials, my friends, and my fellow Montanans, it’s an honor to be with you today.

It’s good to see so many familiar faces. I want to thank you up front for your service. You put your lives on hold, serve as citizen legislators, and go back to live and work in your communities. This is how our Founding Fathers intended for Congress to work. I’ve represented Montana for a little over a year and a half, and I can tell you there aren’t enough citizen legislators in Washington.

Our Montana citizen legislature is part of what makes Montana special.

Effective public service is not something you can do by yourself. It takes a big team. I appreciate working with you to bring greater prosperity and opportunity to more hardworking Montana families.

Government does not create prosperity. The private sector does. Montana businesses and hard-working Montanans create jobs and opportunity.
Government should and must create an environment where businesses can grow and thrive. We must continue working to get government out of the way so that all Americans and Montanans can prosper.

There is good news. Our economy is booming. The pro-growth policies we’ve put into place in Congress in the last two years are working. I’m proud of the tax cuts we enacted to help all Montanans.

A typical Montana family will take home about $2,300 more this year. That’s money for retirement, a new car, home repairs, bills, and savings. A single mom with three kids here in Helena will take home an extra $400 per month, because we cut tax rates and doubled the child tax credit. That’s more money for that family – for clothes, food, books, and toys. It made the difference between a car that works and one that doesn’t. It’s certainly not just crumbs.

Tax reform has also helped open the spigot for Montana businesses to invest, grow, and create more jobs. As I tour the state, I visit many businesses. At Loenbro in Great Falls, thanks to tax reform, they are investing in construction equipment – excavators and bulldozers – to expand their operation. That investment creates jobs. They’re also increasing worker benefits and enhancing training programs.

At a roundtable with small business owners in Bozeman, one entrepreneur told me new tax policies were a big part of her decision to launch two new businesses.

At Billings Flying Service, I met with owners and employees who talked about how the company is investing in updated equipment and led them to new research and development.

And just last week a small business owner in Billings told me his business will get a larger tax refund than they expected, and he plans to invest it in expanding his business.

We’ve also been getting rid of unnecessary, burdensome regulations. Montana’s business owners should be able to spend more time with their families or working with customers and less time filling out needless paperwork.

We enacted a new Farm Bill into law that has Montana’s fingerprints on it. It’s a win for Montana’s farmers and ranchers who work the land to feed our country and the world. The new Farm Bill provides a strong safety net that protects against the impact of natural disasters and unpredictable, unfair trade practices of other countries.

The new Farm Bill also includes a provision I secured to empower county governments to help manage our federal forests. With that increased local engagement, we can begin to manage our forests again to make them healthier, increase access, reduce the severity of wildfires, and bring more good-paying timber jobs.

I’m also pleased to report that we passed the VA Mission Act to ensure our veterans get the health care they have earned.
Lowering taxes and cutting red tape are working in Montana and across America.

Our economy is growing at its fastest pace in a decade. More than 5 million jobs have been created since 2016.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Labor reported on Friday that more than 300,000 jobs were created in January.

Unemployment hit a 49-year low. Wages and benefits are growing at their fastest pace in a decade, and Americans in the lowest income levels are the biggest recipients.

Optimism is on the rise. We’re helping people realize the American dream again.

The outlook in Montana is strong. We’ve created more than 10 thousand new Montana jobs since 2016. Montana’s unemployment rate is below the national average.

That’s all very promising, but there are still causes for concern. Montana still ranks near the bottom in the nation in wages, and Montana families struggle to make ends meet.

Plus, Montana’s workforce has grown barely 3% in the last decade, and consequently we don’t have enough workers.

Unfortunately, our most valuable export continues to be our kids. Our lower wages in Montana encourage them looking elsewhere for opportunity.

As a dad of four, I’d like to see my kids and grandkids often, but if they don’t live in Montana, that doesn’t happen.

We’ve come a long way from the high-tax, high-regulation era of the last administration, but there is more to do.

Imagine if Montana took a page from our national pro-growth playbook. We’d have more jobs, higher wages, greater innovation, and more opportunities for Montanans to prosper and maybe more of our kids and grandkids could come back home.

One critical path to growth and opportunity is to empower our workforce. We’ve got to ensure Montana workers have the tools they need to succeed.

A four-year college degree isn’t the right education for every person. There are many jobs where specialized skills are required. We should promote trades education so Montanans have more options to succeed.

We should expand apprenticeship programs that empower Montana workers.

We should make sure Montana job creators have access to the kind of talent they need, and workforce development is a key way to get there.
In addition to building a stronger workforce, we should continue encouraging and nurturing entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs create businesses and businesses create jobs – that’s why we need more entrepreneurs. Fortunately, Montana is a national leader in entrepreneurship.

We have more entrepreneurs per capita than any other state. It’s no surprise – our quality of life attracts them, including our outstanding public lands.

I’m proud to have had a hand in building this entrepreneurial movement in our state. Susan and I started a business in our home in Bozeman over twenty years ago. It grew to 1,100 employees and one of Montana’s largest employers. Our average wage in Bozeman was almost $90,000 per year. Because of that success, we now have over 300 high-tech firms in our state.

Our growing high-tech industry adds diversity to our Montana economy. It complements agriculture, natural resources, and tourism. Tech may be one of the best ways to bring prosperity to more Montana communities and bring our kids home. In fact, tech is the fastest growing sector in our economy, growing 9 times faster than the overall economy. Plus, Montana’s average high-tech wage is double the state’s average.

Again, entrepreneurship is key, and we should continue encouraging it.

We also need to make Montana more competitive. To get there, we must reduce the cost of doing business in our state. We should create a climate where businesses can more easily grow and create jobs. We need regulatory, legal, and tax reforms to sustain greater growth and more opportunity in Montana.

Ultimately, we cannot tax our way to prosperity. We should look to lower rates, not create new taxes. Montanans should keep more of their hard-earned money.

We must also look at ways to improve our infrastructure. Central to those efforts is streamlining the permitting process. Permitting requirements tie up critical projects in layers of red tape. Permitting delays and frivolous lawsuits have also prevented us from responsibly developing our natural resources and managing our forests.

Another piece of infrastructure that we must address is rural broadband. We have to bring reliable broadband to all of our Montana communities. Rural broadband is foundational for our new and evolving economy, whether it’s health care, education, ag or high tech. Improving broadband in rural areas is a bipartisan issue and one of my focuses in Congress.

And while we should focus on growing opportunity here in Montana, we must also take care of the most vulnerable among us. As a society, it is our moral obligation. A strong economy gives us the ability to fulfill that obligation.

Charitable organizations and communities throughout Montana provide a hand up to those who are struggling. It’s part of who we are as Montanans. Neighbor helping neighbor should be encouraged and supported.
As lawmakers, we must ensure a strong safety net is in place for those who need it most. We must be committed to helping those who have fallen on hard times get back on their feet. We must ensure that those who are able can secure the dignity of work and enjoy the fulfillment that comes from working alongside others and being self-sufficient.

We're turning a corner together. You can see it in the optimism across the country and in our state. For too long, too many Americans felt the American dream slipping out of reach. But now, we're seeing safer communities, a more secure America, and a booming economy. The America dream is coming back.

We’re on the right track, but there’s much more to do.

At the national level, we can’t afford to go back to the failed policies of high taxes and burdensome regulations.

Here in Montana, we must act as well.

We must create an environment where people can achieve the American dream – earning a good living, raising a family, owning a home, contributing to our communities, and retiring comfortably.

We must also create an environment where businesses can build, grow, and create good-paying Montana jobs.

There is a path forward to greater prosperity and more opportunity in Montana, and we should be bold and take it.

Folks, we live in an amazing place. Montana is special.

I’ll always stand with Montana. I’ll always focus on what’s best for Montana. And I’ll always put Montana first.

Thank you. God bless you, God bless Montana, and God bless America.

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Speaker Hertz thanked Congressman Gianforte for his remarks and requested the Committee to escort Congressman Gianforte from the Chamber.

Sergeant-at-Arms Murfitt escorted the guests from the Chamber.

Speaker Hertz called the House back to order.
BILLS (Ricci, Chair):

Correctly engrossed: HB 58, HB 92, HB 257.
Correctly enrolled: HB 60.
Transmitted to the Senate: HB 33, HB 148, HB 205, HB 239.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION (Ricci, Chair):

MR. SPEAKER:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration recommend that employment of the following pages of the House cease as of 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2019:

Jason Hernandez, Bozeman
Hannah Musczkiewicz, Helena
Thomas Penley, Helena
Cael Ricci, Billings

and recommend that the following pages of the House be employed as of 1:00 p.m., Monday, February 4, 2019:

Logan Ball, Fort Benton
Madeleine Fink, Billings
Aase Hahn, Helena
Maleah Schott, Missoula
Joseph Spencer, Montana City
Allyson Young, Fairview

Report Adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration, having examined the daily journals for the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth legislative days, find the same to be correct.

Representative Ricci, Chair
HB 92, introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Title, page 1, lines 12 through 13.
   Strike: "REVISING LAWS RELATING TO" on line 12 through "CLAIMS HISTORY;" on line 13
   Insert: "CLARIFYING GRIEVANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS;"

2. Title, page 1, line 14.
   Strike: "33-16-201,"

3. Title, page 1, line 15.
   Strike: "33-18-210"
   Insert: "33-32-306"

4. Page 1, line 21.
   Following: "commissioner"
   Insert: ": (1)"
   Strike: "shall"
   Insert: "may"

5. Page 1, line 23.
   Following: "a policy"
   Insert: "; and (2) is subject to the ethics provisions in Title 2, chapter 2"

6. Page 9, line 20 through page 13, line 17.
   Strike: section 11 through section 12 in their entirety

   Following: line 17
   Insert: "Section 11. Section 33-32-306, MCA, is amended to read:
   "33-32-306. Grievance reporting and record keeping requirements -- definition. (1) (a)"
   A health insurance issuer shall maintain within a register all written records that document grievances received during a calendar year, including the notices and claims associated with the grievances.
   (b) For the purposes of this section, "register" means the written record of grievances received by a health insurance issuer that includes the notices and claims associated with the grievances as required by this section.
   (2) Retention of the records in the register must be as provided in subsection (6), except that a health insurance issuer shall maintain for at least 6 years those records specified by the commissioner by rule.
   (3) A health insurance issuer shall:
   (a) maintain the records in a manner that is reasonably clear and accessible to the
commissioner; and

(b) make the records available for examination, on request, by covered persons, the commissioner, and any appropriate federal oversight agency.

(4) A request for a review of a grievance involving an adverse determination must be processed in compliance with 33-32-308 and must be included in the register.

(5) For each grievance, the register must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(a) a general description of the reason for the grievance;
(b) the date received;
(c) the date of each review or, if applicable, review meeting;
(d) a report on the resolution of the grievance, if applicable;
(e) the date of the resolution, if applicable; and
(f) the name of the covered person for whom the grievance was filed.

(6) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), a health insurance issuer shall retain the register compiled in a calendar year for 3 years or until the commissioner has adopted a final report of an examination that contains a review of the register for that calendar year, whichever is longer.

(7) (a) At least annually, a health insurance issuer shall submit to the commissioner a report in the format specified by the commissioner.

(b) The report must include for each type of health plan offered by the health insurance issuer:

(i) the certificate of compliance required by 33-32-307(4)(b);
(ii) the number of covered persons;
(iii) the total number of grievances;
(iv) the number of grievances resolved, if applicable, and their resolution;
(v) the number of grievances of which the health insurance issuer has been informed that were appealed to the commissioner;
(vi) a synopsis of actions taken or being taken to correct problems that have been identified.


NATURAL RESOURCES (White, Chair): 2/1/2019
HB 58, introduced bill, be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 23.
Strike: "climate vulnerability"
Insert: "drought and flooding"

2. Page 1, line 27.
Following: "state,"
Insert: "tribal,"


MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Senate bills passed and transmitted to the House for concurrence: 1/31/2019

SB 4, introduced by A. Olszewski
SB 45, introduced by J. Cohenour
SB 68, introduced by B. Gillespie
SB 115, introduced by D. Kary

House bill concurred in and returned to the House: 1/31/2019

HB 60, introduced by E. Buttrey

FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS

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

HB 344, introduced by K. Kelker, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 366, introduced by R. Farris-Olsen, M. Funk, referred to Judiciary.
HB 367, introduced by R. Garcia, referred to Taxation.
HB 368, introduced by R. Lynch, M. Blasdel, W. Galt, S. Sales, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 369, introduced by R. Lynch, referred to Judiciary.
HB 372, introduced by T. Welch, G. Custer, R. Tempel, referred to Taxation.
HB 373, introduced by D. Dunn, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 374, introduced by S. Greef, referred to State Administration.
HB 375, introduced by W. McKamey, B. Mercer, A. Olszewski, referred to Judiciary.
HB 376, introduced by R. Fitzgerald, referred to Taxation.
HB 379, introduced by T. Manzella, S. Berglee, referred to Local Government.
HB 381, introduced by D. Dunn, referred to Agriculture.
HB 382, introduced by M. Caferro, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 383, introduced by K. White, referred to Natural Resources.
HB 384, introduced by T. Woods, referred to Judiciary.
HB 385, introduced by W. Galt, D. Bartel, M. Blasdel, G. Hertz, L. Jones, S. Morigeau, D. Skees,
HB 386, introduced by G. Hertz, referred to Taxation.

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

HJR 13, introduced by D. Dunn, referred to Energy, Technology and Federal Relations.

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

SB 4, introduced by A. Olszewski (by request of the Children, Families, Health, and Human
Services Interim Committee), referred to Human Services.
SB 45, introduced by J. Cohenour (by request of the Water Policy Interim Committee), referred to
Natural Resources.
SB 68, introduced by B. Gillespie (by request of the Department of Livestock), referred to Fish,
Wildlife and Parks.
SB 115, introduced by D. Kary, M. Cuffe, J. Ellsworth, S. Fitzpatrick, T. Gauthier, S. Hinebauch,
T. Jacobson, M. Lang, D. Lenz, M. MacDonald, M. McNally, A. Olszewski, M. Phillips, T. Richmond,

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 Hopkins in the chair.

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

HB 228 - Representative Mandeville moved HB 228 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Yeas: Abbott, Anderson, Bachmeier, Bahr, Ballance, Bartel, Beard, Bedey, Berglee, Bessette,
Bishop, Brown B, Brown Z, Burnett, Buttrey, Caferro, Curdy, Custer, DeVries, Doane, Dooling,
Dudik, Dunn, Dunwell, Duram, Farris-Olsen, Fern, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Fuller, Funk, Galloway,
Galt, Garcia, Garner, Glimm, Greef, Grubbs, Gunderson, Hamlett, Harvey, Hayman, Holmlund,
Hopkins, Jones, Karjala, Kassmier, Keane, Kelker, Keogh, Kerr-Carpenter, Knudsen C,
Knudsen R, Krautter, Krotkov, Lenz, Loge, Lynch, Mandeville, Manzella, Marler, McKamey,
Mercer, Moore E, Moore T, Morigeau, Mortensen, Noland, Olsen, Peppers, Perry, Pierson,
Pope, Read, Redfield, Regier, Ricci, Runningwolf, Ryan, Sales, Schreiner, Shaw, Skees, Smith,
Stewart Peregyo, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tschida, Usher, Vinton, Weatherwax, Webb, Welch,
White, Windy Boy, Winter, Woods, Zolnikov, Mr. Speaker.
Total 99

STATE INTERNET/BBS COPY
Nays: None.
Total 0

Voted absentee: Bahr, Aye.

Excused: Bahr.
Total 1

Absent or not voting: Hamilton.
Total 1

HB 233 - Representative Mercer moved HB 233 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 63

Total 37

Voted absentee: Bahr, No.

Excused: Bahr.
Total 1

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 257 - Representative Curdy moved HB 257 do pass.

HB 257 - Representative Skees moved HB 257, second reading copy, be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 20 through line 21.
Strike: "or was" on line 20 through "borders" on line 21.

Amendment adopted as follows:


Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 257 - Representative Curdy moved HB 257, as amended, do pass. Motion carried as follows:


Total 9

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
HB 283 - Representative Keogh moved HB 283 do pass. Motion carried as follows:


Total  96

Nays: Caferro, Mandeville, Tschida, Windy Boy.

Total  4

Voted absentee: Bahr, Aye.

Excused: Bahr.

Total  1

Absent or not voting: None.

Total  0

HB 285 - Representative Ricci moved HB 285 do pass. Motion carried as follows:


Total  99

Nays: Ballance.

Total  1

Voted absentee: Bahr, Aye.
Excused: Bahr.
Total  1

Absent or not voting: None.
Total  0

HJR 6 - Representative Dudik moved HJR 6 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total  72

Total  28

Voted absentee: Bahr, Aye.

Excused: Bahr.
Total  1

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 Hopkins moved the Committee of the Whole report be adopted. Report adopted as follows:

Total  99
Nays: None.
Total  0

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bahr.
Total  1

Absent or not voting: None.
Total  0

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 33 passed as follows:

Total  77

Total  22

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bahr.
Total  1

Absent or not voting: None.
Total  0

HB 148 passed as follows:
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Total 53

Total 46

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bahr.
Total 1

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 205 passed as follows:

Total 97

Nays: DeVries, Regier.
Total 2

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bahr.
Total 1

Absent or not voting: None.

STATE INTERNET/BBS COPY
HB 239 passed as follows:


Total 83


Total 16

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: Bahr.

Total 1

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

MOTIONS

Majority Leader Tschida moved to re-refer HB 355 from the Transportation Committee to the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee. Without objection, so ordered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker, I move that the following undersigned name be REMOVED as sponsor to HB 253.

Motion carried.

HB 253 (J. Bachmeier, Chief Sponsor)
Sheldon-Galloway.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Committee meetings were announced by the committee chairs.

Majority Leader Tschida moved the House adjourn until 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 5, 2019. Motion carried.

House adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

LINDSEY VROEGINDEWEY          GREG HERTZ
Chief Clerk of the House      Speaker of the House