

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) FINANCE AND CLAIMS**

**Call to Order:** Chair John Esp-R, on April 13, 2023 at 8:03 AM, in 317

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. John Esp, Chair (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Staff Present:** Julie Johnson, Research Analyst  
Joe Triem, Fiscal Analyst  
Cy Walsh, Secretary

**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 & Date Posted:

HB 82 04/08/2023  
HB 91 04/08/2023  
HB 217 04/08/2023  
HB 245 04/08/2023

HB 297 04/08/2023

HB 377 04/08/2023

HB 597 04/08/2023

Executive Action:

HB 377 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 597 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED

HB 82 TO TABLE

HB 91 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED

HB 217 BE CONCURRED IN

HB 245 BE CONCURRED IN

HB 297 BE CONCURRED IN

HB 10 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED

**HEARING ON HB 597 - Generally revising laws related to reallocation of 911 fees**

**Opening Statement:**

08:05:18 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HB 597, Generally revising laws related to reallocation of 911 fees.

**Discussion:**

08:06:36 Vice Chair Carl Glimm joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:11:32 Laura Schultz, Department of Justice (DOJ)

[EXHIBIT\(230413FCSa1\)](#)

EXHIBIT2

EXHIBIT3

08:14:08 Tim Martindale, Galatin County 911 (GC911)

08:16:13 David Ortley, Deputy Attorney General

08:18:16 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

08:19:25 Vice Chair Carl Glimm left the meeting.

08:20:13 Jessie Luther, Association of Montana Troopers (AMT)

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:21:05 Jeff Feiss, Broadband Montana (BM)

08:27:07 Sen. Ellie Boldman joined the meeting.

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:27:34 Quinn Ness, Department of Justice (DOJ)

08:27:55 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library (MSL)

08:28:30 Beth Thompson, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:28:59 Sen. Pat Flowers

08:29:30 Rep. Neil Duram-R

08:30:30 Sen. Pat Flowers  
08:30:52 Beth Thompson, DOJ  
08:31:59 Quinn Ness, DOJ  
08:34:14 Sen. John Fuller  
08:34:29 David Ortley, Deputy Attorney General  
08:35:12 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting.  
08:36:35 Rep. Neil Duram-R  
08:38:47 Sen. Mike Lang  
08:39:08 Quinn Ness, DOJ  
08:41:13 Sen. Mike Lang  
08:41:35 Jeff Feiss, BM  
08:43:56 Sen. Dennis Lenz  
08:44:28 Quinn Ness, DOJ  
08:51:01 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
08:51:47 Rep. Neil Duram-R  
08:54:17 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
08:54:37 Jeff Feiss, BM

**Closing Statement:**

08:55:44 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, closed the hearing on HB 597.

**HEARING ON HB 82 - Create Montana national guard enlistment incentive program**

**Opening Statement:**

09:00:07 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 82, Create Montana national guard enlistment incentive program.

**Discussion:**

09:00:09 Sen. Daniel Salomon left the meeting.

09:00:12 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.  
09:00:18 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.  
09:00:23 Sen. Dennis Lenz left the meeting.  
09:02:31 Sen. Pat Flowers left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:02:42 Major General J. Peter Hronek, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:06:56 Major Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard (MNG)  
09:07:27 Janae Grotbo, Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:08:04 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
09:11:24 Gen. J. Peter Hronek, DMA  
09:11:45 Sen. Kenneth Bogner  
09:13:59 Major Todd Wayne, MNG  
09:14:21 Sen. Mike Lang  
09:14:45 Janae Grotbo, DMA  
09:15:21 Sen. Mike Lang

**Closing Statement:**

09:15:38 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 82.

**HEARING ON HB 91 - Revise laws related to public library state aid**

**Opening Statement:**

09:18:08 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 91,  
Revise laws related to public library state aid.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:20:16 Jenny Stapp, Montana State Library (MSL)  
09:21:32 Sen. Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.  
09:21:36 Sam Forstag, Montana Library Association (MLA)  
09:22:07 Sen. Shelley Vance left the meeting.  
09:22:10 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.  
09:22:12 Sen. Dennis Lenz joined the meeting.  
09:22:40 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)  
09:23:24 John Finn, Lewis and Clark Library (LCL)  
09:25:11 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
09:25:56 Alissa Wolenetz, Montana Library Association (MLA)  
09:27:39 Alyssa Ramirez, Lincoln County Library (LCL)  
09:30:17 Mitch Grady, Livingston-Park County Public Library (LPCPL)  
09:32:29 Joy Bridwell, Stone Child College Library (SCCL)  
09:34:29 Jodie Moore, self  
09:36:26 Sen. Dan Bartel left the meeting.  
09:36:48 Rachel Rawn, self  
09:37:08 Sen. John Fuller left the meeting.  
09:37:23 Sen. Dennis Lenz left the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:38:09 Sen. Mike Cuffe  
09:38:48 Jenny Stapp, MSL  
09:41:00 Sen. Mike Lang  
09:41:28 Jenny Stapp, MSL

**Closing Statement:**

09:42:28 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 91.

**HEARING ON HB 217 - Increase fees for migratory bird licenses**

**Opening Statement:**

09:44:01 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB 217, Increase fees for migratory bird licenses.

**Discussion:**

09:44:10 Sen. Shelley Vance joined the meeting.  
09:44:15 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.  
09:44:32 Sen. Dennis Lenz joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:45:33 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)  
09:45:59 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:46:37 Lena Havron, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:47:04 Sen. Mike Lang  
09:47:22 Rep. Gary Parry-R  
09:47:39 Sen. Pat Flowers joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

09:47:43 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, closed the hearing on HB 217.

**HEARING ON HB 245 - Revise tax credit for trades education and training**

**Opening Statement:**

09:48:45 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 245, Revise tax credit for trades education and training.

**Discussion:**

09:50:13 Sen. Mike Lang left the meeting.

09:50:18 Sen. Tom McGillvray left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:50:43 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office

09:51:52 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)

09:52:27 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

09:52:53 Ronda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)

09:53:35 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:54:33 Jake Ford, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:54:52 Sen. Tom McGillvray joined the meeting.

09:54:54 Sen. Pat Flowers

09:54:57 Sen. Shelley Vance left the meeting.

09:55:23 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

**Closing Statement:**



09:56:34 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 245.

**HEARING ON HB 297 - Revise video gambling machine taxes to allow a deduction for negative income**

**Opening Statement:**

09:57:25 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB 297, Revise video gambling machine taxes to allow a deduction for negative income.

**Discussion:**

09:57:32 Sen. Mike Lang joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:58:42 Shauna Helfert, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)

[EXHIBIT\(230413FCSa2\)4](#)

10:01:43 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association (MCMOA)

10:03:04 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:03:44 Jason Johnson, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Questions from Committee:**

10:04:19 Sen. Pat Flowers

10:04:35 Shauna Helfert, GIA

10:07:24 Chair John Esp

10:07:48 Jason Johnson, DOJ

10:09:05 Chair John Esp

10:09:11 Ronda Wiggers, MCMOA

10:10:55 Sen. Mike Lang

10:11:31 Jason Johnson, DOJ

10:12:51 Sen. Christopher Pope  
10:12:52 Sen. Shelley Vance joined the meeting.  
10:13:04 Ronda Wiggers, MCMOA  
10:14:44 Sen. Pat Flowers  
10:15:14 Shauna Helfert, GIA

**Closing Statement:**

10:16:57 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, closed the hearing on HB 297.

**HEARING ON HB 377 - Create a 250th commission for Montana**

**Opening Statement:**

10:19:14 Rep. Linda Reksten (R), HD 12, opened the hearing on HB 377, Create a 250th commission for Montana.

**Discussion:**

10:19:30 Chair John Esp left the meeting.  
10:19:33 Sen. John Fuller left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:22:46 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Office  
10:23:13 Chair John Esp joined the meeting.  
10:23:59 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:24:37 Molly Kruckenberg, Montana Historical Society (MHS)

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

10:25:08 Rep. Linda Reksten (R), HD 12, closed the hearing on HB 377.

10:26:21 Sen. Morigeau has arrived

10:26:37 **Recessed**

11:07:31 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 377 - Create a 250th commission for Montana**

11:07:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 377 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:08:06 Sen. Dan Bartel joined the meeting.

11:08:07 Sen. Tom McGillvray left the meeting.

11:08:10 Sen. John Fuller left the meeting.

11:08:21 Sen. Daniel Salomon joined the meeting.

11:08:24 Vice Chair Carl Glimm joined the meeting.

11:09:21 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting.

11:09:26 Sen. Kenneth Bogner joined the meeting.

11:07:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Glimm, Sen. Lang, Sen. Lenz, Sen. Mandeville, Sen. McGillvray, Sen. Vance, voting no.  
Sen. Fuller, Sen. McGillvray, By Proxy

11:07:58 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Shannon O'Brien

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 597 - Generally revising laws related to reallocation of 911 fees**

11:09:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 597 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:09:49 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.

11:09:52 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.

11:10:08 **Motion:** Sen. Mike Cuffe moved that **HB 597 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:10:44 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.

11:11:08 Sen. Mike Lang

- 11:10:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Esp, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Glimm, Sen. Lenz, Sen. McGillvray, Sen. Vance, voting no. Sen. McGillvray, By Proxy
- 11:12:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 597 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
- 11:12:22 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:12:22 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 82 - Create Montana national guard enlistment incentive program**

- 11:13:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 82 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 11:13:57 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. John Fuller moved that **HB 82 TO TABLE.**
- 11:13:57 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 91 - Revise laws related to public library state aid**

- 11:15:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 91 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 11:15:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 91 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 11:15:36 Sen. Ryan Lynch
- 11:15:42 Vice Chair Carl Glimm
- 11:15:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, Sen. Salomon, voting no.
- 11:16:38 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 91 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
- 11:16:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:16:38 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 217 - Increase fees for migratory bird licenses**

- 11:17:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 217 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 11:17:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:17:26 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. John Fuller

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 245 - Revise tax credit for trades education and training**

11:18:08      **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 245 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:18:08      **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. McGillvray, voting no.  
Sen. McGillvray, By Proxy

11:18:08      **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. John Fuller

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 297 - Revise video gambling machine taxes to allow a deduction for negative income**

11:19:24      **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 297 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:19:42      Sen. Pat Flowers

11:20:42      Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:21:18      Sen. John Fuller

11:21:42      Sen. Forrest Mandeville

11:21:59      Sen. Pat Flowers

11:19:24      **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Sen. Bogner, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting no.

11:19:24      **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Becky Beard

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 10 - Long-range information technology financings and appropriations**

11:23:15      **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 10 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:24:11      **Motion:** Sen. Dan Bartel moved that **HB 10 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230413FCSa3\)5](#)

11:24:11      **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Esp, voting no.

11:28:53      **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 10 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:29:56      Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:30:24      Chair John Esp

11:30:33 Sen. Pat Flowers

11:30:49 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:28:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:31:26 **Motion:** Sen. Ryan Lynch moved that **HB 10 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:32:21 Chair John Esp

11:32:32 Julie Johnson

11:32:44 Chair John Esp

11:32:54 Katy Callon, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

11:33:34 Sen. Mike Cuffe

11:33:52 Sen. Ellie Boldman

11:31:26 **Vote:** Motion failed 14 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Bartel, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. Pope, voting yes.

11:36:17 **Motion:** Sen. Ryan Lynch moved that **HB 10 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:37:04 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:37:09 Julie Johnson

11:37:47 Katy Callon, LFD

11:38:01 Vice Chair Carl Glimm

11:38:22 Julie Johnson

11:38:33 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:38:45 Sen. Mike Lang

11:39:25 Sen. Ryan Lynch

11:39:53 Chair John Esp

11:36:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:40:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Carl Glimm moved that **HB 10 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

11:40:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:40:35 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Lang

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:44:30

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230413FCSaad\)](#)