

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Vice Chairman Robert Story, on February 11, 1997, at 8:00 a.m., in Room 437.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Chase Hibbard, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Robert R. Story, Jr., Vice Chairman (Majority) (R)  
Rep. Robert R. "Bob" Ream, Vice Chairman (Minority) (D)  
Rep. Peggy Arnott (R)  
Rep. Paul Bankhead (R)  
Rep. John C. Bohlinger (R)  
Rep. Bill Carey (D)  
Rep. Alvin A. Ellis, Jr. (R)  
Rep. Marian W. Hanson (R)  
Rep. Hal Harper (D)  
Rep. Dan W. Harrington (D)  
Rep. Rick Jore (R)  
Rep. Scott J. Orr (R)  
Rep. Bob Raney (D)  
Rep. John "Sam" Rose (R)  
Rep. William M. "Bill" Ryan (D)  
Rep. Richard D. Simpkins (R)  
Rep. Emily Swanson (D)  
Rep. Lila V. Taylor (R)  
Rep. Jack Wells (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lee Heiman, Legislative Services Division  
Donna Grace, Committee Secretary

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB 133 (2/5)  
SB 127 (2/5)  
HB 438 (2/5)  
HB 446 (2/5)

Executive Action: SB 133 - Concur  
SB 127 - Concur  
HB 378 - Remove from Table

HEARING ON SB 133

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Sen. Charles Swysgood, Senate District 17, opened the hearing on SB 133, a bill to provide for continued support of the University System for 10 years (6 mill levy). {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.2.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Richard Crofts, Commissioner, University System. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.0.}

John Malee, Montana Federation of Teachers. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 6.6.}

Jeremy Fritz, Associated Students of Montana State University. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 6.8.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 8.6.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Sen. Swysgood closed. Rep. Denny will carry the bill on the House floor. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 10.3.}

HEARING ON SB 127

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Mack Cole, Senate District 4, opened the hearing on SB 127. The bill is a "housekeeping" bill, introduced at the request of the Department of Revenue. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.0.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Sharon Ferguson, Assessment Bureau, Department of Revenue. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.8.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 16.9.}*

Closing by Sponsor:

Sen. Cole closed. Rep. Rose will carry the bill on the House floor. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 19.0.}*

HEARING ON HB 438

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Deb Kottel, House District 45, presented the bill which would defer increased property taxes for certain individuals over age 65. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 22.0.}*

Proponents' Testimony:

Elmer Fauth, Great Falls Senior Citizens' Association. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 26.9.}*

Irene Thuery, American Association of Retired Persons. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 27.9.}*

Madelyn Camern, Great Falls resident. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 28.7.}*

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

Bill Tobin, Helena. *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 29.9.}*

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

EXHIBIT 1. (Suggested amendment to bill.) *{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 32.8; Comments: Questions continued on Tape 1B.}*

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Kottel closed. *{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 6.6.}*

HEARING ON HB 446

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Robert Pavlovich, House District 37, opened on the bill to increase the insurance tax to fund volunteer firemen pensions.  
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 8.1.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Dave Fisher, Silver Bow Fire Council. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 8.9.}

Henry Hislop, Silver Bow Fire Council. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 13.2.}

Mike Doto, Centerville Fire Department. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 16.0.}

Ross Fitzgerald, Teton County Rural Fire Council. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 16.7.}

Pat McKelvey, Member, Clancy Volunteer Fire Department. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 17.1.}

Bob Gilbert, Montana State Volunteer Firefighters' Association. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 18.2.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 18.8.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Pavlovich closed. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 37.7.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 133

Motion/Vote:

Rep. Hanson moved that SB 133 be concurred in. On a voice vote, the motion passed 17 - 2, with Reps. Jore and Simpkins voting no.  
{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 39.3.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 127Motion/Vote:

Rep. Taylor moved that SB 127 be concurred in. On a voice vote, the motion passed 91 - 0. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.2.}

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The Committee held an informal discussion on HB 381 and the accuracy of information provided in the fiscal note. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 7.7.}

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The Committee discussed introduction of a bill to tax Internet, etc., Rep. Bohlinger moved to draft a committee bill. Judy Paynter, DOR, provided information. Rep. Bohlinger withdrew his motion pending receipt of further information. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.0.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 378Motion/Vote:

Rep. Ryan moved to take HB 378 from the table. The motion passed 13 - 5 with Reps. Story, Wells, Jore, Taylor and Hanson voting no. A motion will be made on the floor to move the bill to the Appropriations Committee. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 28.2.}

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 38.0; Comments: Adjourn.}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:15 a.m.



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REP. CHASE HIBBARD, Chairman



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DONNA GRACE, Secretary

CH/DG