

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Chase Hibbard, on February 12, 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: HB 455
HB 476
HB 63

Executive Action: HB 195 - Do Pass as Amended
HB 237 - Table
HB 277 - Table

HEARING ON HB 455

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Billie Krenzler, House District 17, opened the hearing. HB 455 would exempt the first \$25,000 market value of agricultural equipment, furniture and fixtures. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.0.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Dennis Burr, Montana Taxpayers' Association. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 4.8.}

Don Judge, AFL-CIO. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 7.1.}

David Owen, Montana Chamber of Commerce. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 8.0.}

Riley Johnson, National Association of Independent Business. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 8.8.}

Lorna Frank-Karn, Montana Farm Bureau. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 10.4.}

Les Graham, Montana Stockgrowers. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 11.0.}

Opponents' Testimony:

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 11.1.}

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.0.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Krenzler closed. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 28.5.}

HEARING ON HB 476

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. David Ewer opened the hearing on HB 476, a bill which would provide for a local option gas tax. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 30.0.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 34.6.}

Mike Mathews, Commissioner, Yellowstone County. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 37.2.}

Alec Hanson, League of Cities and Towns. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 39.9.}

Mark Watson, Administrator, City of Billings. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: .1.}

David Hoffman, City of Dillon. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 3.9.}

Opponents' Testimony:

Ronna Alexander, Montana Petroleum Marketers. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 5.5.}

Dennis Burr, Montana Taxpayers' Association. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 10.7.}

David Owen, Montana Chamber of Commerce. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 12.2.}

Emile Kimmet, Teton County. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 12.8.}

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 13.8.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Ewer closed. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 38.4.}

HEARING ON HB 63

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Dan Harrington opened the hearing. HB 63 would provide funding for Montana's automobile "lemon law." EXHIBIT 1. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.8.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Randy Virgin. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.0.}

Alve Thomas, American Association of Retired Persons. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 15.9.}

Tara Mele, Montana Public Interest Research Group. EXHIBIT 2.
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 17.6.}

Barrett Kaiser. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 18.1.}

Opponents' Testimony:

Steve Turkiewicz, Montana Auto Dealers' Association. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 18.6.}

Dennis Burr, Montana Taxpayers Association. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 20.6.}

Informational Testimony:

Bud Schoen, Motor Vehicle Division. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 22.8.}

Annie Bartos, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Commerce.
{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 23.6.}

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 24.1.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Harrington closed. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: .1.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 195, HB 237 and HB 277

Motion:

Rep. Harper moved that HB 195 do pass. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 8.0.}

Discussion:

Rep. Tash, sponsor of HB 195, discussed the bill which had originally been heard in the Judiciary Committee. Provisions of HB 237 and 277 dealing with district court fees have been integrated into HB 195. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 4.8.}

Motion/Vote:

Rep. Rose moved the amendments to the bill. **EXHIBIT 3.** On a voice vote, the amendments were accepted, 18 - 2, with Reps. Orr and Jore voting no. *{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 32.6.}*

Motion/Vote:

Rep. Harper moved that HB 195, as amended, do pass. On a roll call vote, the motion passed 15 - 5, with Reps. Orr, Arnott, Wells, Jore and Bankhead voting no. *{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 34.2.}*

Motion/Vote:

Rep. Ream moved to table HB 237. On a voice vote, the motion passed 15 - 0. *{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 35.6.}*

Motion/Vote:

Rep. Ream moved to table HB 277. On a voice vote, the motion passed 15 - 0. *{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 36.4.}*

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 37.1; Comments: Adjourn.}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:00 a.m.



REP. CHASE HIBBARD, Chairman



DONNA GRACE, Secretary

CH/DG