

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Chase Hibbard, on February 19, 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 561 (2/14)
HB 498 (2/11)
HB 514 (2/11)
HB 536 (2/14)

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 561Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Betty Lou Kasten, House District 99, opened the hearing on HB 561 which would streamline tax collection, appeals, etc.

EXHIBIT 1. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.4.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Mary Bryson, Director, Department of Revenue. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.2.}

Pat Haffey, Department of Labor. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 7.7.}

Jeff Miller, Department of Labor. EXHIBIT 2. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 9.1.}

Dennis Zeiler, Administrator, Department of Labor. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 25.0.}

David Owen, Montana Chamber of Commerce. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 41.1.}

Bob Gilbert, Montana Magistrates Association. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1.3.}

Melissa Case. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 3.8.}

Don Judge, AFL-CIO. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 8.2.}

Nancy Butler, State Fund. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 10.5.}

Tom Harrison, Association of CPA's. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 11.4.}

Kathleen Morehouse, Capital Sports and Western. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 11.9.}

Gloria Pladichuk, Richland Development. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 14.6.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 15.2.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Kasten closed. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 34.0.}

HEARING ON HB 498

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Matt Brainard, House District 62, opened the hearing. The bill would establish a flat fee system for taxing vehicles. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 35.5.}

Proponents' Testimony:

None.

Opponents' Testimony:

Chet Kinsey, representing low income individuals. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 37.8.}

Vivian Moore, People's Law Center. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 40.5.}

Gordon Morris, MACO. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 41.1.}

Informational Testimony:

Dean Roberts, Administrator, Vehicle Registration Division. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 0.2.}

Dave Galt, Department of Transportation. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.3.}

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.8.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Brainard closed the hearing. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 30.0.}

Chairman Hibbard appointed a sub-committee to consider tax bills related to taxation of vehicles. Members of the sub-committee are Rep. Story, Chairman, Rep. Wells and Rep. Ryan. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 31.7.}

HEARING ON HB 514

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Chris Ahner, House District 51, opened the hearing on HB 514, a bill which would establish a civil legal assistance account for indigent persons who are victims of domestic violence. **EXHIBIT 3.** {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 34.2.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Ward Shanahan, Past President, Montana Bar Association. **EXHIBIT 4.** {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 35.5.}

Vivian Marie, Montana Law Center. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 37.6.}

Chet Kinsey, Montana Low Income Coalition. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 40.7.}

Deb Bakke, Friendship Center of Helena. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 41.4.}

Neil Haight, Montana Legal Services. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 0.1.}

Opponents' Testimony:

Jeff Koch, Montana Collectors' Association. **EXHIBIT 5.** {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 2.2.}

Bob Gilbert, Montana Magistrates Association. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 8.9.}

Informational Testimony:

Mary Phippen, Montana Clerk of Courts' Association. **EXHIBIT 6.** {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 13.4.}

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 14.3.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Ahner closed the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 536

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. John Bohlinger, House District 14, opened the hearing on a bill which would establish the family education savings act.
{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 30.7; Comments: Continued on Tape 3 A.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Richard Crofts, Commissioner of Higher Education. EXHIBIT 7.
{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.0.}

Eric Hanson, representing Governor Marc Racicot. {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 4.3.}

Jim Stipcich, Task Force on Financial Aid Reform. EXHIBIT 8.
{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 5.3.}

Bob Brigham, Associated Students of Montana (MSU). {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 9.4.}

Jeremy Fritz, Montana University Students (U of M). {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 10.6.}

Arlene Hannawalt, MGSCP. {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.5.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

Bob Turner, Department of Revenue, proposed conceptual amendments. {Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 14.0.}

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 17.3; Comments: Questions continued on Tape 3 B.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Bohlinger closed the hearing. {Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 3.3.}

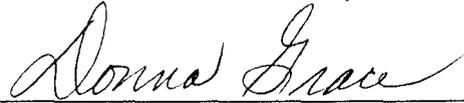
{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 4.7; Comments: Adjourn.}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:05 p.m.



REP. CHASE HIBBARD, Chairman



DONNA GRACE, Secretary

CH/DG