

**MINUTES**

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

**COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Chase Hibbard, on March 7, 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 590 (3/5)  
HB 587 (2/25)  
HB 548 (2/17)  
Executive Action: HB 503 - Table  
HB 548 - Table  
HB 591 - Do Pass as Amended  
HB 455 - Table  
HB 471 - Table  
HB 537 - Discussion Only

HEARING ON HB 590Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Bob Keenan, House District 75, and Rep. Sonny Hanson, House District 9, each gave an opening statement on HB 590. The bill would adjust tax rates for class three, four, and ten property to compensate for increased valuation of taxable property, and provide an exemption to the property tax limitation for taxing jurisdictions to increase property tax mill levies with the approval of their electorate. **EXHIBITS 1, 2, 3 and 4.** {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.6.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Rep. Bill Boharski, House District 79. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 19.4.}

Dennis Burr, Montana Taxpayers' Association. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 27.4.}

Chris Gallus, Montana Chamber of Commerce. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 31.5.}

Charles Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 32.1.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties. {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 34.2.}

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

Rep. Boharski distributed **EXHIBIT 5.** {Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 36.5; Comments: Questions continued on Tape 1B.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Boharski closed the hearing. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 22.8.}

HEARING ON HB 587Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Emily Swanson, House District 30, opened the hearing on HB 587, a bill which would lower the statewide mills from 101 to

83.5. EXHIBIT 6 AND 7. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 30.6.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Dennis Burr, Montana Taxpayers' Association. {Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 40.7.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1.0.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Swanson closed the hearing. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 5.9.}

HEARING ON HB 443

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Rep. Emily Swanson, House District 30, introduced HB 443 which would provide a \$50,000 residential homestead exemption. EXHIBIT 8, 9 AND 10. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 6.7.}

Proponents' Testimony:

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 21.1.}

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 24.0.}

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Swanson closed the hearing. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 35.3.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 503Motion/Vote:

Rep. Carey moved to Table HB 503. On a voice vote the motion passed 19 - 1, with Rep. Harrington voting no. {Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 38.6.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 548Motion:

Rep. Ellis moved that HB 548 do pass. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1.4.}

Discussion:

The Department of Revenue provided information. EXHIBIT 11 AND 12. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 4.6.}

Motion/Vote:

Rep. Orr moved to Table HB 548. On a voice vote, the motion passed 19 - 1, with Rep. Ryan voting no. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 10.0.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 591Motion/Vote:

Rep. Arnott moved that HB 591, as amended, do pass. On a voice vote, the motion passed 20 - 0. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 12.2.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 537Motion:

Rep. Hanson moved HB 537 do pass and then moved the amendments to the bill. No action was taken. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 17.4.}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON 471Motion:

Rep. Ryan moved the amendments to HB 471. EXHIBIT 13. On a voice vote, the amendments passed 20 - 0. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 29.2.}

Motion:

Rep. Ryan moved that HB 471 as amended do pass. {Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 33.1.}

Discussion:

*{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 34.0; Comments: Discussion continued on Tape 3A.}*

Substitute Motion/Vote:

Rep. Ream moved to Table HB 471. The motion passed 17 - 3 with Reps. Ryan, Arnott and Raney voting no. *{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 2.0.}*

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 455

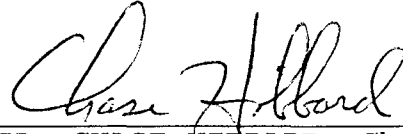
Motion/Vote:

Rep. Harrington moved to Table HB 455. On a voice vote, the motion passed 17 - 2, with Reps. Ryan and Raney voting no. *{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.1.}*

*{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 5.8; Comments: Adjourn.}*

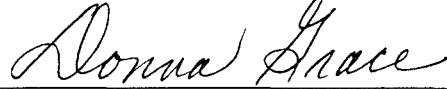
ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:20 a.m.



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REP. CHASE HIBBARD, Chairman



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DONNA GRACE, Secretary

CH/dg