

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chair Ray L. Shaw, on February 26, 2019 at 03:09:54 PM, in Room 137 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Ray L. Shaw, Chair (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Andrea Olsen, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jacob Bachmeier (D)
Rep. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Alan Redfield (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Molly Murray, Committee Clerk
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

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 586, 2/21/2019; HB 592, 2/21/2019; HB 594, 2/21/2019; HB 558, 2/21/2019; HJ 28, 2/22/2019; HB 621, 2/25/2019

Executive Action: HB 558, HB 621, HB 586, HB 594, HB 592, HJ 28

15:12:57 Chair Shaw

HEARING ON HB 558

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:13:25 Rep. Thomas Winter (D), HD 96, opened the hearing on HB 558, Reducing the number of boards and advisory councils.

15:13:30 Rep. Anderson entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:15:39 Tom Livers, Director, Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:21:12 Abigail St. Lawrence, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGA)

15:22:17 Jim Brown, Montana Woolgrowers Association (MWGA)

EXHIBIT(agh41a01)

15:27:01 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Milk Producers Association

15:28:11 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:28:45 Nelson Kamerman, Self

15:29:45 Rep. Manzella

15:30:16 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmer's Union (MFU)

Informational Testimony:

15:31:06 Sean Becker, Montana Department of Commerce

15:31:25 Erik Somerfeld, Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:31:42 Vice Chair Olsen

15:32:04 Rep. Winter

15:32:25 Rep. McKamey

15:32:39 Rep. Winter

15:32:42 Rep. McKamey

15:34:28 Rep. Winter

15:35:02 Rep. McKamey

15:36:27 Rep. Winter

15:37:54 Rep. McKamey

15:38:00 Rep. Curdy

15:38:19 Mr. Somerfeld, MCDC

15:38:34 Rep. Curdy

15:38:48 Mr. Somerfeld, MCDC

15:39:03 Rep. Curdy

15:39:35 Mr. Somerfeld, MCDC

15:40:02 Rep. Curdy

15:40:22 Mr. Becker, Montana Department of Commerce

15:40:52 Rep. Bachmeier

15:41:26 Director Livers, OBPP

15:43:14 Rep. Bachmeier

15:43:23 Director Livers, OBPP

Closing by Sponsor:

15:44:17 Rep. Winter

HEARING ON HB 621

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:46:10 Rep. Theresa Manzella (R), HD 85, opened the hearing on HB 621, Revise custom slaughtering laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

15:54:37 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

16:00:33 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBB)

16:02:45 Matt Elvbakken, Montana Meat Processors Association (MMPA)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:09:09 Rep. Redfield

16:09:41 Executive Officer Honeycutt, MDOL

16:10:17 Rep. Redfield

16:10:23 Executive Officer Honeycutt, MDOL

16:10:40 Rep. Kassmeier left the meeting.

Closing by Sponsor:

16:11:02 Rep. Manzella

16:13:12 Recessed.

16:24:55 Reconvened.

HEARING ON HB 592

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:25:14 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 592, Revise milk pooling laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:26:50 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Milk Producers

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a06\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:32:29 Delbert Kamerman, Self

16:34:16 Nelson Kamerman, Self

Informational Testimony:

16:36:11 Erik Somerfeld, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

16:36:46 Chad Lee, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

EXHIBIT(agh41a07)

16:39:57 Bob Cort, Dairy Technomics

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:40:27 Rep. Redfield

16:40:57 Mr. Nelson Kamerman

16:41:02 Rep. Redfield

16:41:05 Mr. Nelson Kamerman

16:41:23 Rep. Redfield

16:41:25 Mr. Somerfeld, MDOL

16:41:28 Rep Redfield

16:41:33 Mr. Somerfeld, MDOL

16:41:53 Rep. Redfield

16:41:55 Mr. Cort, Dairy Technomics

16:42:27 Rep. Redfield

16:42:32 Mr. Cort, Dairy Technomics

16:43:06 Rep. Redfield

16:43:14 Mr. Cort, Dairy Technomics

16:43:37 Vice Chair Casey Knudsen

16:44:23 Ms. Evans, Montana Milk Producers

16:44:54 Vice Chair Casey Knudsen

16:45:22 Mr. Cort, Dairy Technomics

16:45:39 Rep. Curdy

16:46:28 Mr. Cort, Dairy Technomics

16:47:45 Rep. McKamey

16:48:15 Mr. Cort, Dairy Technomics

Closing by Sponsor:

16:49:25 Rep. Fitzgerald

EXHIBIT(agh41a08)**HEARING ON HB 586****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:52:50 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 586, Revise laws related to state labs.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:57:18 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGa)

16:58:55 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:59:51 Abigail St. Lawrence, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGa)

17:00:12 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

17:00:46 Garrett Bacon, Department of Administration (DOA)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:01:09 Rep. Beard
17:01:30 Rep. Hamlett
17:01:41 Rep. Beard
17:01:48 Rep. Hamlett
17:01:59 Rep. Beard
17:02:09 Rep. Hamlett
17:02:16 Rep. Redfield
17:02:44 Rep. Hamlett
17:03:31 Rep. Redfield
17:03:40 Rep. Hamlett
17:03:50 Rep. Redfield
17:04:00 Rep. Curdy
17:04:32 Rep. Hamlett
17:05:09 Rep. Curdy
17:05:22 Rep. Hamlett
17:06:13 Chair Shaw
17:06:32 Rep. Hamlett
17:06:54 Chair Shaw
17:07:10 Rep. Hamlett
17:07:33 Chair Shaw
17:07:59 Rep. Hamlett

Closing by Sponsor:

17:08:22 Rep. Hamlett

HEARING ON HB 594**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:09:33 Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 594, Requiring country of origin label on beef, pork.

17:10:35 Rep. Galt entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:12:55 Erik Somerfeld, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a09\)](#)

17:16:21 Joel Harris, Northern Plains Resource Council

17:22:45 Makenna Sellers, Montana Cattlemen's Association (MCA)

17:26:04 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a10\)](#)

17:26:49 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a11\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a12\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a13\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a14\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a15\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a16\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a17\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a18\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:29:05 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a19\)](#)

17:32:08 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

17:35:29 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA), Montana Cattlemen's Association (MCA)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a20\)](#)

17:40:24 Mr. Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:38:55 Rep. Galt

17:39:17 Ms. Sellers, Montana Cattlemen's Association (MCA)

17:39:36 Rep. Galt

17:41:14 Ms. Palmer, MFU

17:41:55 Rep. Galt

17:42:15 Ms. Palmer, MFU

17:42:20 Rep. Galt

17:43:06 Mr. Griffin, Montana Retail Association

17:43:42 Vice Chair Olsen

17:44:42 Ms. Palmer, MFU

17:45:52 Vice Chair Olsen

17:45:58 Vice Chair Casey Knudsen

17:46:20 Mr. Griffin, Montana Retail Association

17:46:31 Vice Chair Casey Knudsen

17:46:46 Mr. Griffin, Montana Retail Association

17:47:08 Chair Shaw

17:47:40 Rep. Hamlett

17:48:21 Chair Shaw

17:48:40 Rep. Hamlett

Closing by Sponsor:

17:49:21 Rep. Hamlet

17:54:41 Recessed.

18:00:14 Reconvened.

HEARING ON HJ 28**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

18:00:44 Rep. Dan Bartel (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on HJ 28, Joint resolution requesting denial of American prairie reserve grazing permit.

Proponents' Testimony:

18:03:59 Chuck Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana
[EXHIBIT\(agh41a21\)](#)

18:08:06 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGGA)

18:09:38 Abigail St. Lawrence, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGGA)

18:10:18 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponents' Testimony:

18:12:11 Pete Geddes, American Prairie Reserve (APR)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a22\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a23\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a24\)](#)

18:21:24 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Greater Yellowstone Coalition, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)

Informational Testimony: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

18:24:21 Rep. Redfield

18:24:40 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:24:50 Rep. Redfield

18:24:56 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:25:33 Rep. McKamey

18:26:03 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:26:56 Rep. McKamey

18:27:09 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:27:59 Rep. McKamey

18:28:35 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:30:08 Rep. McKamey

18:30:48 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:30:52 Rep. McKamey

18:31:05 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:32:06 Rep. McKamey

18:32:39 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:34:02 Rep. McKamey

18:34:25 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:37:00 Rep. Keogh

18:37:36 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:40:07 Rep. Beard

18:40:34 Mr. Geddes, APR

18:41:10 Rep. Beard

18:41:32 Mr. Geddes, APR
18:42:04 Rep. Beard
18:42:11 Mr. Geddes, APR
18:43:00 Rep. Beard
18:43:59 Vice Chair Olsen
18:45:09 Rep. Bartel
18:46:01 Vice Chair Olsen
18:46:33 Rep. Bartel
18:46:56 Vice Chair Olsen
18:47:30 Rep. Bartel
18:47:51 Vice Chair Olsen
18:49:12 Rep. Bartel
18:49:27 Rep. Funk
18:50:33 Rep. Bartel
18:52:55 Rep. Funk
18:53:52 Rep. Bartel
18:54:00 Vice Chair Olsen
18:54:28 Rep. McKamey
18:54:40 Rep. Bartel
18:55:08 Rep. McKamey
18:55:34 Mr. Geddes, APR
18:55:44 Rep. Dooling
18:56:25 Rep. Bartel
18:56:48 Rep. Curdy
18:57:34 Mr. Lamb, MWF, NWF, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, NPCA
18:59:09 Rep. Curdy
18:59:21 Mr. Lamb, MWF, NWF, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, NPCA
19:00:09 Rep. Beard

Closing by Sponsor:

19:02:59 Rep. Bartel

Discussion

19:04:01 Chair Shaw
19:04:11 Vice Chair Olsen
19:04:20 Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
19:04:40 Rep. Bachmeier
19:04:47 Ms. Nowakowski, LSD

19:05:28 Recessed.
19:18:53 Reconvened.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 558

19:19:20 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 558 DO PASS.**

19:19:32 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Bachmeier made a substitute motion that **HB 558 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion failed 7-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Bachmeier, Rep. Bishop, Rep. Curdy, Rep. Funk, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Olsen and Rep. Sullivan voting aye. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

19:21:15 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 558 BE AMENDED**.

Discussion:

19:21:30 Ms. Nowakowski, LSD

[EXHIBIT\(agh41a25\)](#)

19:21:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

19:22:25 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 558 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

19:22:31 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Bachmeier made a substitute motion that **HB 558 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion failed 7-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Bachmeier, Rep. Bishop, Rep. Curdy, Rep. Funk, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Olsen and Rep. Sullivan voting aye. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

Discussion

19:23:57 Chair Shaw

19:24:01

Motion/Vote: Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 558 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 11-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bachmeier, Rep. Bishop, Rep. Curdy, Rep. Funk, Rep. Keogh and Rep. Olsen voting no. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 621

19:25:26 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 621 DO PASS**.

19:25:44 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Funk made a substitute motion that **HB 621 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 586

19:26:30 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 586 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 594

Discussion

19:27:15 Chair Shaw

19:27:31 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 594 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

19:27:39 Vice Chair Olsen

19:28:17 Vice Chair Casey Knudsen

19:28:28 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. C. Knudsen made a substitute motion that **HB 594 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried 9-8 by roll call vote with Rep. Bachmeier, Rep. Bishop, Rep. Curdy, Rep. Funk, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Olsen and Rep. Sullivan voting no. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 592

Discussion:

19:30:24 Chair Shaw

19:30:28 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HB 592 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

19:30:33 Rep Redfield

19:31:12 Rep. Bachmeier

19:31:25 Rep. Curdy

19:32:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 28

19:33:03 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HJ 28 DO PASS**.

19:33:10 **Motion:** Rep. Redfield moved that **HJ 28 BE AMENDED BY STRIKING LINES 17-19 ON PAGE 1, LINES 26-30 ON PAGE 1, AND LINES 1-10 ON PAGE 2 FROM THE BILL**.

Discussion:

19:34:37 Vice Chair Olsen

19:35:22 Rep. Redfield

19:35:33 Chair Shaw

19:35:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

19:36:02 **Motion:** Rep. C. Knudsen moved that **HJ 28 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

Discussion:

19:36:09 Rep. Funk

19:36:44 Vice Chair Olsen

19:38:02 Rep. McKamey

19:39:12 Vice Chair Casey Knudsen

19:40:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bachmeier, Rep. Bishop, Rep. Curdy, Rep. Funk, Rep. Keogh, Rep. Olsen and Rep. Sullivan voting no. Rep. Galt and Rep. Mortensen voted by proxy.

19:41:20 Chair Shaw

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 19:41:47

Molly Murray, Secretary

mm

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([agh41aad.pdf](#))