

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Geraldine Custer, on April 16, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Geraldine Custer, Chair (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Steve Gunderson, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Greg DeVries (R)  
Rep. Frank Fleming (R)  
Rep. Bruce Grubbs (R)  
Rep. Derek J. Harvey (D)  
Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)  
Rep. Jasmine Krotkov (D)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Christopher Pope (D)

##### **Members Excused:**

Rep. Rodney Garcia (R)  
Rep. Frank Garner (R)  
Rep. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)  
Rep. Derek Skees (R)  
Rep. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Branch  
Chris Bushnell, Committee Secretary

**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: HJ 54, 4/10/2019  
Executive Action: HJ 54

**HEARING ON HJ 54****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

- 15:01:42 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HJ 54, Interim study of liquor laws.
- 15:03:36 Rep. Zolnikov entered the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

- 15:07:09 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA), Montana Retail Association (MTRA)
- 15:10:27 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Distillers Guild (MDG)
- 15:11:53 Matt Leow, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

- 15:16:49 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)  
[EXHIBIT\(loh80a01\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(loh80a02\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(loh80a03\)](#)
- 15:23:38 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association of Montana (GIA)
- 15:29:20 Kristi Blazer, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association (MBWDA)

**Informational Testimony:**

- 15:31:50 Becky Schlauch, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

- 15:33:01 Rep. Pope
- 15:33:58 John Iverson, MTA
- 15:36:11 Rep. Grubbs
- 15:36:48 John Iverson, MTA
- 15:37:16 Rep. Marler
- 15:37:31 John Iverson, MTA
- 15:37:59 Rep. Harvey left the meeting.
- 15:38:41 Rep. Grubbs
- 15:39:20 Rep. Fern
- 15:40:44 Vice Chair Gunderson
- 15:41:09 Brad Griffin, MRA, MTRA
- 15:41:21 Vice Chair Gunderson
- 15:41:37 Brad Griffin, MRA, MTRA
- 15:42:02 Chair Custer
- 15:43:00 Brad Griffin, MRA, MTRA
- 15:44:20 Vice Chair Gunderson
- 15:44:41 Becky Schlauch, DOR
- 15:45:03 Vice Chair Gunderson
- 15:45:15 Ginger Aldrich, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
- 15:45:56 Vice Chair Gunderson
- 15:46:12 Ginger Aldrich, LSD
- 15:46:29 Rep. Grubbs
- 15:46:35 Becky Schlauch, DOR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:47:18 Rep. Fern  
15:53:04 Chair Custer  
15:54:06 Recessed  
16:05:29 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 54**

16:05:35 **Motion:** Rep. Gunderson moved that **HJ 54 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:05:57 Rep. Grubbs  
16:07:12 Rep. Zolnikov  
16:08:59 Rep. Pope  
16:10:16 **Motion:** Rep. Kerr-Carpenter moved that **HJ 54 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED TO CHANGE "LIQUOR PRODUCTS" ON LINE 24, PAGE 1, TO "ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES."**  
16:10:34 Rep. Fern  
16:10:46 Without objection, Rep. Kerr-Carpenter withdrew the conceptual amendment.  
16:11:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-2 by roll call vote with Rep. DeVries and Rep. Fleming voting no. Rep. Garcia, Rep. Garner, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Manzella, Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Skees voted by proxy.  
16:13:13 Chair Custer  
16:13:25 Rep. Pope  
16:13:48 Chair Custer

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:14:02

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Chris Bushnell, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([loh80aad.pdf](#))