

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: Chair Jennifer Fielder, on March 21, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jennifer Fielder, Chair (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. David Howard (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch
Mary Vandembosch, 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: HB 279, 3/13/2019; HB 281, 3/13/2019; HB 291, 3/13/2019

HEARING ON HB 291**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:49 Rep. Becky Beard (R), HD 80, opened the hearing on HB 291, Establishing the voluntary wolf mitigation account.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:05:15 Kim Skinner, board of directors, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGGA)

EXHIBIT(fis58a01)

15:08:14 Bill Mitchell, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
15:09:05 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
15:09:57 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Montana Association of State Grazing Districts
15:10:55 Jim Brown, Montana Wool Growers Association
15:12:22 Paul Rossignol
15:13:43 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
15:14:19 Michael McKenrick, MTA
15:14:47 Kris Killorn, Montana Chapter Safari Club International
15:15:25 Paul Fielder, MTA, Region 1
15:16:14 Abigail St. Lawrence, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association; Montana Outfitters and Guides Association; Treasure State Mule Deer Foundation

EXHIBIT(fis58a02)**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:17:36 Nick Gevock, conservation director, Montana Wildlife Federation
15:18:47 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies

EXHIBIT(fis58a03)

15:20:57 Rick Lamplugh, Bear Creek Council

EXHIBIT(fis58a04)

15:23:04 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition
15:25:38 Wyatt Smith, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony:

15:26:10 Mike Honeycutt, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)
15:26:36 Quentin Kujala, Wildlife Bureau coordinator, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:27:03 Sen. Hinebauch
15:27:41 Mr. Skinner, RMSGGA
15:29:09 Sen. Flowers
15:29:31 Mr. Honeycutt, MDOL
15:32:32 Chair Fielder
15:32:43 Mr. Honeycutt
15:33:00 Mr. Kujala, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

15:33:22 Rep. Beard

HEARING ON HB 281**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:38:55 Rep. Bob Brown (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 281, Revising laws related to how nonresident wolf licenses are issued.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:41:04 Nick Gevock, conservation director, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
15:42:17 Bill Mitchell, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
15:42:59 Paul Fielder, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
15:44:36 Tim McKenrick, MTA
15:45:34 Michael McKenrick, MTA
15:45:47 Ross Morgan, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association
15:46:24 Jim Brown, Montana Wool Growers Association
15:47:03 Kris Killorn, Southwest Montana Safari Club International Chapter; Outdoor Heritage Coalition
15:47:33 Justin Webb, executive director, Foundation for Wildlife Management
15:48:08 Paul Rossignol
15:48:51 Dusty Crary, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)
15:49:16 Wyatt Smith, Montana Audubon

Opponents' Testimony:

15:49:41 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies
15:51:11 Rick Lamplugh, Bear Creek Council

Informational Testimony:

15:52:56 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau chief, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:53:23 Chair Fielder
15:53:35 Quentin Kujala, Wildlife Bureau Coordinator, FWP
15:55:45 Sen. Flowers
15:56:42 Mr. Kujala, FWP
15:57:03 Sen. Flowers
15:57:31 Mr. Crary, MOGA
16:00:18 Chair Fielder
16:00:49 Mr. Gevock, MWF

Closing by Sponsor:

16:01:45 Rep. Brown

HEARING ON HB 279**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:02:45 Rep. Bob Brown (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 279, Allow for wolf trapper expense reimbursement.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:06:57 Bill Mitchell, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
16:09:08 Paul Fielder
16:11:38 Justin Webb, executive director, Foundation for Wildlife Management (FWM)

EXHIBIT(fis58a05)

16:14:19 Paul Rossignol
16:15:55 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
16:17:09 Michael McKenrick, MTA
16:17:38 Ross Morgan, board of directors, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGGA)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:19:34 Nick Gevock, conservation director, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
16:21:21 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition
16:23:37 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies

EXHIBIT(fis58a06)

16:24:55 Chair Fielder
16:25:25 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

EXHIBIT(fis58a07)

16:26:32 Chair Fielder
16:26:43 Ms. York
16:29:19 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council

EXHIBIT(fis58a08)

16:31:47 Rick Lamplugh, Bear Creek Council

EXHIBIT(fis58a09)

16:34:10 Art Compton, executive committee, Montana Chapter of Sierra Club
16:35:25 Russ Talmo, Defenders of Wildlife
16:36:37 John Marshall
16:38:30 Whitney Tawney, Montana Conservation Voters
16:39:35 Wyatt Smith, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony:

16:41:33 Quentin Kujala, Wildlife Bureau coordinator, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:42:04 Sen. Ellsworth
16:42:33 Mr. Kujala, FWP
16:45:06 Sen. Ellsworth
16:45:42 Mr. Morgan, RMSGGA
16:48:06 Sen. Hinebauch
16:48:43 Mr. Webb, FWM
16:49:40 Sen. Hinebauch
16:50:00 Mr. Morgan
16:50:33 Sen. Cohenour

16:51:09	Mr. Morgan
16:51:51	Mr. Kujala
16:52:27	Sen. Cohenour
16:52:53	Mr. Morgan
16:53:26	Sen. Cohenour
16:54:23	Mr. Gevock, MWF
16:55:51	Sen. Cohenour
16:56:24	Mr. Morgan
16:57:05	Sen. Cohenour
16:57:16	Mr. Morgan
16:57:45	Sen. Cohenour
16:58:47	Mr. Kujala
16:59:41	Sen. Cohenour
17:00:26	Rep. Brown
17:02:07	Sen. Cohenour
17:02:40	Rep. Brown
17:03:08	Sen. Flowers
17:03:58	Mr. Kujala
17:09:58	Chair Fielder
17:10:17	Mr. Kujala
17:12:24	Chair Fielder
17:12:50	Mr. Webb
17:15:44	Chair Fielder
17:16:07	Mr. Webb

Closing by Sponsor:

17:17:39	Rep. Brown
17:20:08	Chair Fielder

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:20 PM

Mary Vandebosch, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fis58aad.pdf](#))