

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross H. Fitzgerald, on January 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald, Chair (R)
Rep. Neil Duram, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Seth Berglee (R)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch
Jesse Tack, Remote Meeting Coordinator

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 147, 1/12/2021; HB 160, 1/15/21; HB 163, 1/15/21
Executive Action: HB 40; HB 119

HEARING ON HB 163**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:01:04 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), opened the hearing on HB 163, Revise fish and wildlife commission members.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:03:21 Rep. Loge
15:06:15 Rep. Berglee joined the meeting.
15:06:32 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)
15:08:02 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited
15:09:42 Nick Gevok, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
15:11:19 Dale Tribby, self
15:12:25 Jim Buell, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:13:56 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies
15:16:54 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana
15:19:52 Rep. Berglee
15:20:08 Chair Fitzgerald
15:20:18 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana
15:20:56 Margareta Marro, self
15:22:53 Dr. Shelley Coldiron, self
15:26:28 KC York, Trap Free Montana

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

15:29:30 Rep. R. Knudsen
15:28:58 Chair Fitzgerald
15:30:03 Dr. Shelly Coldiron, self
15:30:20 KC York, Trap Free Montana
15:30:37 Rep. Mitchell
15:30:55 Rep. J. Hinkle
15:31:27 Rep. Fielder
15:32:16 Rep. J. Hinkle
15:32:52 Rep. Fielder
15:33:29 Rep. Putnam joined the meeting.
15:34:48 Vice Chair Duram
15:36:04 Hank Warsech, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)
15:36:29 Vice Chair Duram
15:36:41 Hank Warsech, FWP
15:36:54 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:37:53 Vice Chair Duram
15:38:25 Rep. Fielder
15:38:40 Vice Chair Duram
15:38:44 Rep. Fielder
15:39:07 Chair Fitzgerald

15:39:47 Hank Worsech, FWP
15:40:11 Chair Fitzgerald
15:40:14 Hank Worsech, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

15:40:59 Rep. Fielder

15:41:06 Rep. R. Knudsen left the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 160

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:42:11 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 160, Free hunting/fishing for service members/veterans with 50% disability rating.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

15:47:04 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited
15:50:49 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)
15:53:03 Eric Clewis, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

Informational Testimony:

15:54:49 Hank Worsech, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:55:20 Rep. Loge
15:56:02 Rep. Kerns
15:56:38 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
15:58:04 Rep. Loge
15:58:17 Rep. Phalen
15:58:42 Rep. Kerns
16:00:33 Rep. Berglee left the meeting.

Closing by Sponsor:

16:01:19 Rep. Kerns

HEARING ON HB 147

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:03:35 Rep. Tom France (D), HD 94, opened the hearing on HB 147, Establish the Montana hunters and anglers community fund.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:09:35 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA); Montana Cattlewomen
16:11:06 Colin Cooney, National Trout Unlimited (TU)
16:11:39 Daniel Farr, self

[EXHIBIT\(fih12a01\)](#)

16:14:15 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
16:17:10 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
(Montana Chapter BHA)
16:18:35 Walker Conyngham, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers (HHA)

[EXHIBIT\(fih12a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:20:06 Bob Gilbert, self

Informational Testimony:

16:23:47 Jennifer Thompson, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:24:24 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:30:23 Rep. France
16:32:00 Vice Chair Duram
16:32:38 Jennifer Thompson, FWP
16:32:54 Rep. Berglee rejoined the meeting.
16:33:16 Rep. Reksten
16:34:10 Jennifer Thompson, FWP
16:34:30 Rep. Reksten
16:35:00 Jennifer Thompson, FWP
16:35:15 Hope Stockwell, LSD
16:36:12 Rep. Putnam
16:36:42 Jennifer Thompson, FWP
16:36:47 Rep. Berglee
16:37:04 Jennifer Thompson, FWP
16:37:30 Rep. Berglee
16:37:43 Jennifer Thompson, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

16:38:14 Rep. France

16:39:30 Rep. R. Knudsen joined the meeting.

Committee Business:

16:40:30 Chair Fitzgerald
16:40:59 Rep. Marler
16:41:11 Chair Fitzgerald

16:41:30 Recessed
17:04:04 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 40

17:04:10 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 40 DO PASS.**

17:04:30 **Motion:** Rep. Putnam moved that **HB 40 BE AMENDED IN LINE 20 BY STRIKING THE NUMBER 30 DAYS AND REPLACING IT WITH 45 DAYS.**
EXHIBIT(fih12a03)

Discussion:

17:04:48 Chair Fitzgerald
17:05:13 Hope Stockwell, LSD
17:05:36 Chair Fitzgerald
17:05:45 Rep. Putnam
17:05:52 Chair Fitzgerald
17:06:03 Rep. Loge
17:06:23 Rep. Farris-Olsen

17:06:37 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Rep. Running Wolf was excused.

17:07:00 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 40 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Rep. Running Wolf was excused.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 119

17:07:45 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 119 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:08:14 Rep. Duram

17:08:43 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Rep. Running Wolf was excused.

Committee Business:

17:09:13 Chair Fitzgerald
17:09:16 Hope Stockwell, LSD
17:09:30 Chair Fitzgerald
17:09:53 Hope Stockwell, LSD
17:10:00 Chair Fitzgerald
17:10:18 Rep. France
17:10:47 Chair Fitzgerald

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:11:28

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fih12aad.pdf](#))