

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross H. Fitzgerald, on February 25, 2021 at 3:15 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. Seth Berglee (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (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:

Hearings & Date Requested: HB 523, 2/22/2021; HB 524, 2/22/2021; HJ 18, 2/24/2021
Executive Action: HB 147, HB 160, HB 468, HB 523, HB 524, HJ 18

HEARING ON HB 524**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:24:46 Rep. Tom France (D), HD 94, opened the hearing on HB 524, Revise laws related to snare traps on public lands.

15:26:03 Rep. Hinkle joined the meeting.

15:26:44 Rep. Berglee left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:29:36 Carolyn Mehl, self

15:32:35 Jonathan Haufler, self

EXHIBIT(fih40a01)

15:36:12 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:36:54 Pete Feigley, self

15:39:43 Greg Peters, Montana Backcountry Alliance (MBA)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:42:13 Garrett Bacon, self

15:44:13 Ed Hebbe IV, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

15:46:00 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

EXHIBIT(fih40a02)

15:48:54 Michael McKenrick, self

15:49:08 Andrew Pershern, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

15:50:03 Jeff Rader, self

15:53:30 Jim Buell, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

Informational Testimony:

15:55:14 Bob Inman, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:55:37 Rep. Fielder

15:56:49 Andrew Pershern, MTA

15:57:08 Rep. Fielder

15:57:57 Ed Hebbe IV, MTA

15:59:01 Rep. Hinkle

15:59:36 Bob Inman, FWP

15:59:57 Rep. Hinkle

16:00:37 Ed Hebbe IV, MTA

16:02:05 Rep. Hinkle

16:02:17 Vice Chair Duram

16:03:25 Bob Inman, FWP

16:03:32 Vice Chair Duram

16:03:48 Bob Inman, FWP

16:04:02 Rep. Loge

16:06:16 Bob Inman, FWP

16:06:33 Chair Fitzgerald

16:06:43 Tim McKenrick, MTA
16:08:10 Vice Chair Duram
16:08:36 Rep. France
16:09:02 Carolyn Mehl, self
16:10:31 Vice Chair Duram
16:11:11 Rep. France
16:12:35 Rep. Fielder
16:13:05 Bob Inman, FWP
16:14:03 Rep. Fielder
16:14:23 Bob Inman, FWP
16:14:34 Rep. Loge
16:15:31 Tim McKenrick, MTA
16:15:40 Rep. Loge
16:16:18 Tim McKenrick, MTA
16:17:35 Rep. Loge
16:18:00 Chair Fitzgerald
16:18:13 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
16:18:18 Chair Fitzgerald
16:18:24 Jessica Hoag, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
16:18:40 Chair Fitzgerald
16:19:06 Hope Stockwell, LSD
16:19:16 Jessica Hoag, DNRC
16:19:45 Chair Fitzgerald
16:19:56 Rep. Fielder
16:20:37 Andrew Pershern, MTA

Closing by Sponsor:

16:22:02 Rep. France

HEARING ON HB 523**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:25:49 Rep. Tom France (D), HD 94, opened the hearing on HB 523, Revise laws related to snare traps on public lands.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:27:30 Jonathan Haufler, self
16:30:01 Carolyn Mehl, self
16:31:38 Patricia Bouta, self
16:33:19 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
16:34:06 Pete Feigley, self

Opponents' Testimony:

16:36:47 Garrett Bacon, self
16:38:04 Ed Hebbe IV, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
16:38:46 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
16:40:26 Vice Chair Duram
16:40:41 Rep. Fielder
16:40:55 Michael McKenrick, self
16:41:14 Andrew Pershern, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

16:42:51 Jeff Rader, self
16:44:16 Jim Buell, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

Informational Testimony:

16:45:23 Bob Inman, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:45:40 Vice Chair Duram
16:46:11 Rep. Fielder
16:47:32 Rep. France
16:48:40 Chair Fitzgerald
16:48:47 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
16:49:22 Rep. Fielder
16:50:45 Rep. France
16:51:36 Rep. Loge
16:51:53 Rep. France
16:52:37 Rep. Loge
16:52:49 Rep. France
16:53:04 Bob Inman, FWP
16:53:56 Rep. Loge
16:54:07 Bob Inman, FWP
16:54:27 Rep. Loge
16:55:33 Rep. France
16:56:39 Rep. Putnam
16:57:07 Tim McKenrick, MTA
16:59:18 Rep. Novak
17:00:11 Rep. France
17:01:51 Vice Chair Duram
17:02:17 Bob Inman, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

17:03:03 Rep. France

HEARING ON HJ 18

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

17:03:41 Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D), HD 79, opened the hearing on HJ 18, Joint Resolution urging Wyoming fed and state agencies to stop elk feeding.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:05:51 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
17:07:12 Timothy Bechtold, self
17:08:41 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:10:19 Vice Chair Duram
17:10:39 Rep. Farris-Olsen`
17:10:57 Rep. Berglee joined the meeting.
17:11:16 Timothy Bechtold, self
17:11:50 Vice Chair Farris-Olsen

Closing by Sponsor:

17:12:37 Rep. Farris-Olsen

17:13:02 Chair Fitzgerald

17:14:02 Recessed
17:36:17 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 524

17:37:47 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 524 DO PASS.**

17:38:12 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Phalen made a substitute motion that **HB 524 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Seekins-Crowe and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Mitchell and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 523

17:40:42 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 523 DO PASS.**

17:40:59 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Novak made a substitute motion that **HB 523 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 13-5 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Mitchell and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 18

17:42:58 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HJ 18 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:43:15 Rep. Fielder
17:45:30 Vice Chair Farris-Olsen

17:46:40 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Phalen made a substitute motion that **HJ 18 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 10-8 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. J. Hinkle, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Putnam, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Mitchell and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 468

17:48:48 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 468 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:50:03 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

17:50:15 Chair Fitzgerald

17:50:28 Hope Stockwell, LSD

17:50:42 Chair Fitzgerald

17:50:46 Hope Stockwell, LSD

17:50:56 **Motion:** Rep. Fielder moved that **HB 468 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(fih40a03)

Discussion:

17:51:15 Rep. Fielder

17:52:21 Vice Chair Duram

17:52:31 Rep. Berglee

17:53:00 Rep. Fielder

17:53:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Mitchell and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

17:54:34 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 468 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

17:54:46 **Motion:** Rep. Running Wolf moved that **HB 468 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(fih40a04)

Discussion:

17:55:19 Rep. Running Wolf

17:56:24 Vice Chair Duram

17:57:03 Hope Stockwell, LSD

17:57:24 Without objection Rep. Running Wolf withdrew his motion to amend HB 468.

17:57:42 **Motion:** Rep. Berglee moved that **HB 468 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED BY STRIKING JULY 31 AND REPLACING IT WITH JUNE 15 ON LINE 20 PAGE 2.**

Discussion:

17:58:05 Rep. Hinkle

17:58:10 Rep. Fielder

17:58:32 Rep. Phalen left the meeting.

17:58:40 Hope Stockwell, LSD

17:58:55 Rep. Running Wolf

17:58:5p Rep. Hinkle left the meeting.

17:59:03 Hope Stockwell, LSD

17:59:20 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. J. Hinkle, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

18:00:12 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 468 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:00:25 Rep. Loge
18:00:38 Rep. Running Wolf
18:01:02 Vice Chair Duram
18:01:14 Rep. Fielder

18:01:28 **Vote:** Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Duram, Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. J. Hinkle, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 147

18:03:52 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
18:04:00 Rep. Loge

18:04:09 **Motion:** Rep. Loge moved that **HB 147 DO PASS AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:04:23 Vice Chair Duram
18:04:44 Rep. France

18:05:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Berglee, Rep. Fielder, Rep. J. Hinkle, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen and Rep. Seekins-Crowe voting no. Rep. J. Hinkle, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:07:13

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

jk

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fih40aad.pdf](#))