

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Call to Order: Chair Barry Usher, on March 12, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 137 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Barry Usher, Chair (R)
Rep. Kathy Kelker, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Amy Regier, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Seth Berglee (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen (D)
Rep. Frank Fleming (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jane Gillette (R)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Dennis R. Lenz (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Derek Skees (R)
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)
Rep. Danny Tenenbaum (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Mallerie Stromswold (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Lydia Balian, Committee Secretary
Rachel Weiss, Legislative Branch
Hallie Swain, 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 367, 3/10/2021; HB 620, 3/10/2021; SB 178, 3/10/2021; SB 277, 3/10/2021

HEARING ON HB 620**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:04:27 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, opened the hearing on HB 620, Revise Title X appropriation.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:06:51 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)
08:09:25 Rep. Stromswold joined the meeting.
08:09:44 Rep. Matt Regier
08:10:13 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA)
08:11:41 Donna Elford, self
08:12:10 Cathy Carlson, self
08:13:30 Adam Meier, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
08:15:44 Joe Russell, Flathead County Health Department

[EXHIBIT\(juh50a01\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

08:18:12 Jamie Palagi, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:19:19 Vice Chair Kelker
08:19:51 Stacey Anderson, MPCA
08:20:16 Rep. Gillette
08:22:15 Jamie Palagi, DPHHS
08:22:23 Rep. Lenz left the meeting.
08:23:05 Rep. Tenenbaum
08:23:35 Jamie Palagi, DPHHS

Closing by Sponsor:

08:24:08 Rep. Amy Regier

HEARING ON HB 367**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:33:36 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 367, Revise constitutional language regarding harvest heritage.

[EXHIBIT\(juh50a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

08:42:12 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

[EXHIBIT\(juh50a03\)](#)

08:46:24 Chris Killorn, Outdoor Heritage Coalition (OHC)
08:47:45 Chair Usher left the meeting.
08:47:50 Vice Chair Regier assumed the chair.
08:47:59 Jay Bodner, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA)
08:48:52 Rep. Lenz rejoined the meeting.

08:49:10 Ben Erickson, Citizens for Balanced Use
08:51:23 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana
08:52:08 Keith Kubista, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (MTSFW)
08:54:29 Jeff Rader, self
08:55:11 Jim Buell, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
08:56:25 Andrew Pershern, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
08:56:59 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
08:58:48 Michael McKenrick, self

Opponents' Testimony:

08:59:55 Mark Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies
09:01:59 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana

EXHIBIT(juh50a04)

09:06:38 Ami Vitale, self
09:08:19 Clinton Nagel, Gallatin Wildlife Association (GWA)

EXHIBIT(juh50a05)

09:11:44 Zack Strong, Animal Welfare Institute
09:14:12 Joy Stevens, self
09:17:21 Peg Brownlee, self
09:19:07 Leslie Millar, self
09:22:45 Stephanie Naftal, self
09:27:43 Chester Watson, self
09:30:07 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands
09:32:53 Rep. France left the meeting.
09:33:44 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:39:40 Rep. Gillette
09:44:18 Rep. Fielder
09:46:33 Vice Chair Kelker
09:46:54 Rachel Weiss, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:47:31 Vice Chair Kelker
09:48:22 Rep. Skees
09:53:56 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana
09:54:37 Rep. J. Hinkle
09:55:08 Rep. Fielder
09:56:09 Rep. J. Hinkle
09:59:14 Mac Minard, MOGA
10:01:11 Vice Chair Kelker
10:04:49 Chester Watson, self
10:05:47 Rep. Tenenbaum
10:06:33 Rep. Fielder
10:08:25 Rep. Phalen
10:09:05 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana
10:10:15 Rep. Phalen
10:10:15 Stephanie Naftal, self

10:10:47 Rep. Phalen
10:11:03 Mark Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies
10:11:05 Rep. Usher rejoined the meeting.
10:11:22 Rep. Ler
10:12:44 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana
10:13:03 Rep. J. Hinkle
10:14:52 Keith Kubista, MTSFW
10:16:11 Rep. J. Hinkle
10:18:11 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana
10:18:21 Rep. Phalen
10:19:32 Leslie Millar, self
10:19:46 Rep. Usher
10:22:34 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana

Closing by Sponsor:

10:23:04 Rep. Fielder

10:26:00 Rep. Usher resumed the chair.

HEARING ON SB 178**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:27:16 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 178, Prohibiting state building codes from requiring mandatory fire sprinklers.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:32:16 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)
10:35:22 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

Opponents' Testimony:

10:36:45 Mick Spini, Billings Fire Marshal
[EXHIBIT\(juh50a06\)](#)

10:41:36 Dustin Tetrauel, Big Sky Fire Department
10:45:26 Greg Van Horssen, State Farm Insurance
[EXHIBIT\(juh50a07\)](#)

10:49:10 Kiely Keane, National Fire Sprinklers Association (NFSA)
[EXHIBIT\(juh50a08\)](#)

10:52:26 Aimee Grmoljez, American Property Casualty Service Association (APCI)
[EXHIBIT\(juh50a09\)](#)

10:54:22 Bruce Spencer, National Association of Mutual Insurance Company (NAMIC)
10:56:11 Carter Marsh, Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters
10:56:53 Shane Grube, Hebgen Basin Fire District
10:59:39 Patrick Hooper, Western States Fire Protection (WSFP)
11:01:37 Karen Courtney, Montana Chapter of the International Code Council
11:05:11 Josh Waldo, Bozeman Fire Department
11:07:09 Rich Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance

EXHIBIT(juh50a10)

11:08:59 Rick Benton, City of Lewistown Building Department

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

11:10:12 Rep. Skees
11:11:05 Vice Chair Kelker
11:12:48 Aimee Grmoljez, APCI
11:14:04 Rep. Skees
11:17:55 Patrick Hooper, WSFP
11:18:31 Rep. Gillette
11:21:04 Shane Brube, Hebgen Basin Fire District
11:21:50 Rep. France
11:23:52 Sen. Friedel
11:24:14 Rep. Bishop
11:26:40 Dustin Tetrauel, Big Sky Fire Department
11:27:12 Rep. Hawk left the meeting.

Closing by Sponsor:

11:27:44 Sen. Friedel

11:31:35 Chair Usher left the meeting.
11:31:40 Vice Chair Regier assumed the chair.

HEARING ON SB 277**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

11:31:53 Sen. Tom McGillvray (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 277, Generally revising laws related to state's rights.

Proponents' Testimony:

11:39:52 Alan Doane, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)
11:40:07 Keith Kubista, self

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

11:40:58 Vice Chair Kelker
11:43:30 Sen. McGillvray
11:43:59 Rep. Stafman
11:47:34 Sen. McGillvray
11:48:06 Rep. Skees
11:48:26 Sen. McGillvray

Closing by Sponsor:

11:48:34 Sen. McGillvray

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:48:58

Lydia Balian, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([juh50aad.pdf](#))