

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross H. Fitzgerald, on March 18, 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. Seth Berglee (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
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)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)

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 637, 3/16/2021

Executive Action: SB 267; SB 306; SB 314; SB 360; HB 505

HEARING ON HB 637**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:02:23 Rep. Seth Berglee (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 637, Generally revise fish, wildlife, and parks laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:03:25 Ron Jendro, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(fih54a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fih54a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fih54a03\)](#)

15:19:25 Shawn Thomas, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:21:30 Eric Melson, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (Montana BHA)

15:24:16 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:25:20 Rep. Loge joined the meeting.

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:26:06 Rep. J. Hinkle

15:26:56 Shawn Thomas, DNRC

15:27:17 Rep. J. Hinkle

15:27:43 Shawn Thomas, DNRC

15:28:09 Rep. Fielder

15:28:44 Ron Jendro, FWP

15:29:01 Rep. Fielder

15:29:30 Eric Melson, Montana BHA

15:29:48 Rep. Marler

15:30:34 Ron Jendro, FWP

15:30:56 Rep. Marler

15:31:31 Ron Jendro, FWP

15:32:22 Rep. Reksten

15:33:02 Ron Jendro, FWP

15:33:36 Rep. France

15:37:06 Ron Jendro, FWP

15:37:28 Quentin Kujula, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

15:37:53 Rep. France

15:38:06 Quentin Kujula, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

15:39:27 Rep. Berglee

15:41:44 Chair Fitzgerald

15:42:09 Recessed

16:09:22 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 267

16:09:38 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 267 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:10:14 Vice Chair Duram

16:10:25 Chair Fitzgerald

16:10:28 Vice Chair Farris-Olsen

16:10:35 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Seekins-Crowe and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Phalen will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 306

16:12:08 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 306 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:12:29 Rep. France

16:14:11 Chair Fitzgerald

16:14:20 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

16:14:35 Rep. Fielder

16:15:02 Chair Fitzgerald

16:15:16 Rep. R. Knudsen

16:15:49 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Berglee moved that **SB 306 BE CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED BY DECREASING THE NUMBER OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES FROM 4 TO 2.** . Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. J. Hinkle voting no.

16:16:35 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 306 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:17:24 Rep. France

16:17:33 Chair Fitzgerald

16:17:52 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Running Wolf made a substitute motion that **SB 306 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 14-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Loge, Rep. Phalen and Rep. Running Wolf voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 314

16:19:28 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 314 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:20:02 Rep. Marler

16:20:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Putnam, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting no. Rep. Berglee will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 360

16:22:23 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **SB 360 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:22:54 Rep. France

16:23:55 **Vote:** 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. Duram will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 505

16:25:55 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 505 DO PASS.**

16:26:30 **Motion:** Rep. Berglee moved that **HB 505 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT([fih54a04](#))

Discussion:

16:26:55 Rep. Berglee
16:28:42 Rep. Loge
16:28:52 Rep. Berglee
16:29:31 Rep. R. Knudsen
16:29:47 Rep. Berglee
16:30:33 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:30:59 Rep. Berglee
16:32:13 Chair Fitzgerald

16:33:27 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-3 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France and Rep. Marler voting no.

16:34:44 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 505 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

16:34:58 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. France made a substitute motion that **HB 505 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion failed 8-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Putnam, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting aye.

Discussion:

16:36:26 Rep. Loge
16:37:45 Rep. Berglee
16:39:29 Rep. Marler
16:40:14 Vice Chair Duram
16:40:55 Rep. France
16:42:23 Rep. J. Hinkle

16:44:32 **Vote:** Motion failed 9-9 by roll call vote with Rep. Berglee, Rep. Duram, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. J. Hinkle, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Loge, Rep. Phalen and Rep. Seekins-Crowe voting aye. Rep. Farris-Olsen voted by proxy.

16:45:58 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 505 BE TABLED**. Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen voting no. Rep. Farris-Olsen voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:46:53

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fih54aad.pdf](#))