

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross H. Fitzgerald, on March 25, 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. 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. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
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:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 647, 3/19/2021; SB 208, 3/22/2021
Executive Action: HB 637; SB 306

15:13:53 Vice Chair Duram assumed the gavel.

HEARING ON SB 208

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:14:44 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 208, Allow donations to hunger and habitat programs.

15:14:56 Rep. J. Hinkle joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:17:00 Joe Cohenour, self

15:18:53 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:19:55 Rep. Putnam left the meeting.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:20:04 Jennifer Thompson, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:20:38 Rep. Marler

15:21:24 Jennifer Thompson, FWP

15:21:58 Rep. Fielder

15:22:31 Jennifer Thompson, FWP

15:22:49 Rep. Reksten

15:23:07 Jennifer Thompson, FWP

15:23:40 Rep. R. Knudsen

15:24:21 Jennifer Thompson, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

15:24:49 Sen. Cohenour

HEARING ON HB 647

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:26:15 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), opened the hearing on HB 647, Revise nonresident student hunting and fishing fees.

[EXHIBIT\(fih59a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fih59a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:28:39 Dr. Joshua Millsbaugh, University of Montana (UM)

15:34:36 Tony Schoonen, Boone and Crockett Club

15:37:31 Travis Hawkins, self

15:40:52 Wyatt Nielsen, The Wildlife Society -University of Montana (TWS - UM)

15:44:25 Nicole Bealer, University of Montana and Montana State University Student Chapters of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (UM & MSUBHA)

15:46:54 James Goerz, self

15:50:25 Rachel Schmidt, Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)_
15:51:12 Chair Fitzgerald joined the meeting.
15:52:25 Jan Reinhardt, Montana Associated Students (MAS)
15:53:31 Mac Minard, Sportmen's Caucus Advisory Council (Sportmen's Caucus AC)

EXHIBIT(fih59a03)

15:54:56 Vice Chair Duram left the meeting.
15:55:15 Jonathan Karlen, self
15:57:17 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
15:59:09 Dr. Merced Romero Jr., self
15:59:59 Rep. Running Wolf joined the meeting.
16:02:53 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
16:03:15 Justin Ruby, self
16:06:30 Jack St. John, self
16:09:24 Blake Henning, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
16:11:18 Charlie Booher, self

Opponents' Testimony:

16:14:28 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited; Walleye Unlimited
16:16:55 Noah Marian, Montana Wilderness Association (MWA)

Informational Testimony:

16:19:18 Emily Cooper, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:19:45 Rep. Seekins- Crowe
16:20:36 Mac Minard, Sportmen's Caucus AC
16:23:31 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
16:24:10 Rep. Galloway
16:26:12 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:28:08 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:29:06 Vice Chair Duram joined the meeting.
16:29:09 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:29:55 Rep. Putnam joined the meeting.
16:30:01 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:30:20 Rep. Fielder
16:32:30 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:32:55 Vice Chair Duram
16:33:25 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:33:54 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:34:53 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:35:01 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:36:06 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:36:17 Rep. Loge
16:36:43 Rep. Galloway
16:36:56 Rep. Loge
16:37:04 Rep. Galloway
16:37:14 Rep. Berglee
16:37:44 Dr. Joshua Millsbaugh, UM

16:38:00 Rep. Berglee
16:38:40 Dr. Joshua Millspaugh, UM
16:39:45 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
16:40:08 Dr. Joshua Millspaugh, UM
16:41:24 Rep. Fielder
16:42:33 Wyatt Nielsen, TWS - UM
16:43:56 Rep. Loge
16:44:40 Dr. Joshua Millspaugh,UM
16:46:02 Rep. Galloway
16:46:28 Jonathan Karlen, self

Closing by Sponsor:

16:51:59 Rep. Galloway

16:55:52 Recessed
17:03:02 Reconvened with Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Phalen, and Rep. Reksten absent.

Committee Business:

17:03:45 Chair Fitzgerald
17:04:19 Rep. Berglee
17:06:11 Rep. Loge
17:07:36 Rep. Fielder
17:07:48 Rep. Loge
17:07:59 Rep. Fielder
17:08:09 Rep. Loge
17:08:36 Rep. France
17:08:51 Rep. Loge
17:09:25 Rep. Marler
17:12:35 Chair Fitzgerald
17:13:32 Rep. Marler
17:13:42 Chair Fitzgerald

17:13:55 Recessed
17:28:16 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 637

17:28:50 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 637 DO PASS.**

17:29:58 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Berglee moved that **HB 637 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. France voting no. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

EXHIBIT(fih59a04)

17:31:44 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 637 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

17:31:55 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Berglee moved that **HB 637 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

[EXHIBIT\(fih59a05\)](#)

17:34:09 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 637 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

17:34:24 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Loge moved that **HB 637 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

[EXHIBIT\(fih59a06\)](#)

17:34:40 Rep. Marler

17:35:37 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 637 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

17:35:44 **Motion:** Rep. Marler moved that **HB 637 BE AMENDED**.

[EXHIBIT\(fih59a07\)](#)

Discussion:

17:36:02 Rep. Marler

17:36:26 Rep. Berglee

17:37:06 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-12 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting aye. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

17:38:42 **Motion:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 637 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

17:38:47 **Motion:** Rep. Marler moved that **HB 637 BE AMENDED**.

[EXHIBIT\(fih59a08\)](#)

Discussion:

17:39:03 Rep. Marler

17:39:47 Rep. Berglee

17:41:17 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-12 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting aye. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

17:42:40 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

17:43:01 **Motion:** Rep. Marler moved that **HB 637 BE AMENDED**.

[EXHIBIT\(fih59a09\)](#)

Discussion:

17:43:11 Rep. Marler
17:43:33 Re. Fielder
17:43:56 Rep. Berglee
17:44:59 Rep. France
17:46:32 Re. Putnam
17:46:42 Rep. J. Hinkle

17:47:30 **Vote:** Motion failed 7-11 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Putnam, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting aye. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

17:48:50 **Motion:** Rep. Marler moved that **HB 637 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(fih59a10)

Discussion:

17:48:59 Rep. Marler
17:50:39 Rep. Berglee
17:51:33 Rep. Seekins-Crowe and Rep. Fielder left the meeting.
17:52:14 Rep. Marler
17:52:18 Rep. France
17:53:20 Rep. Marler
17:54:54 Rep. Berglee

17:56:29 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-12 by roll call vote with Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Novak, Rep. Running Wolf and Rep. Weatherwax voting aye. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Fielder, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Seekins-Crowe and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

17:58:10 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Duram moved that **HB 637 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Fielder, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Seekins-Crowe and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

17:59:41 **Motion:** Rep. Loge moved to **RECONSIDER PREVIOUS ACTION** on **SB 306.**

Discussion:

17:59:54 Rep. Loge
18:00:15 Hope Stockwell, LSD
18:00:42 Rep. Putnam
18:00:51 Rep. Loge
18:00:58 Chair Fitzgerald
18:01:03 Rep. Novak
18:01:05 Chair Fitzgerald
18:01:14 Rep. Marler
18:01:30 Rep. Loge
18:01:40 Rep. Knudsen joined the meeting.
18:01:40 Vice Chair Duram

18:01:50 Hope Stockwell, LSD

18:02:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Seekins-Crowe and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy.

18:04:07 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Loge moved that **SB 306 BE CONCURRED IN AS PREVIOUSLY CONCEPTUALLY AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Farris-Olsen, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Seekins-Crowe and Rep. Weatherwax voted by proxy. Rep. Loge will carry the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:06:39

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fih59aad.pdf](#))