

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**Call to Order:** Chair Joshua Kassmier, on March 30, 2021 at 3:30 PM, in Room 137  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Julie Dooling, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Andrea Olsen, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)  
Rep. Becky Beard (R)  
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)  
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Rynalea Whiteman Pena (D)

##### **Members Excused:**

Rep. Moffie Funk (D)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)

**Members Absent:** None

##### **Staff Present:**

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Committee Secretary  
Corina Hach, 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 677, 3/26/2021; HB 681, 3/26/2021; HB 688, 3/26/2021  
Executive Action on: HB 688; HB 681; HB 410; HB 628; SB 270; SB 307

15:35:35 Rep. Ler joined the meeting.  
15:35:40 Chair Kassmier  
15:35:58 Vice Chair Dooling assumed the Chair.

### **HEARING ON HB 681**

#### **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:36:23 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 681, Create agricultural transportation enhancement account for port authorities.

#### **Proponents' Testimony:**

15:37:03 Curtis Shuck, Port of Northern Montana (PNM)  
15:40:11 Jillien Streit, Stricks Ag  
15:42:31 Rep. McKamey joined the meeting.  
15:43:09 Mitch Konen, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)  
15:44:44 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
15:46:24 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
15:46:51 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

#### **Informational Testimony:**

15:48:11 Christy Clark, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)

#### **Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:48:45 Rep. Curdy  
15:52:30 Curtis Shuck, PNM  
15:54:16 Rep. Malone  
15:55:26 Rep. Kassmier  
15:55:58 Rep. Beard  
15:56:22 Rep. Kassmier  
15:56:47 Rep. Walsh  
15:57:33 Rep. Kassmier  
15:58:01 Curtis Shuck, PNM  
15:59:12 Rep. F. Smith  
16:00:43 Curtis Shuck, PNM  
16:01:46 Vice Chair Olsen  
16:02:53 Rep. Kassmier  
16:03:51 Rep. McKamey  
16:04:27 Rep. Kassmier  
16:04:50 Curtis Shuck, PNM

#### **Closing by Sponsor:**

16:06:11 Rep. Kassmier

### **HEARING ON HB 688**

#### **Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:07:32 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 688, Interim study of winemaking regulations.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:08:23 Brian McGuire, Willow Mountain Winery (WMW)

[EXHIBIT\(agh62a01\)](#)

16:11:54 Larry Robertson, Winery Association of Montana (WAM)

[EXHIBIT\(agh62a02\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

16:15:59 Christy Clark, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)

16:16:31 Becky Schlauch, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the Montana  
Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:16:53 Rep. Malone  
16:17:24 Rep. Kassmier  
16:17:48 Rep. McKamey  
16:18:23 Rep. Kassmier  
16:18:38 Christy Clark, AGR  
16:18:47 Rep. McKamey  
16:19:00 Christy Clark, AGR  
16:19:12 Rep. McKamey  
16:19:26 Larry Robertson, WAM  
16:20:29 Rep. Curdy  
16:22:04 Brian McGuire, WMW  
16:23:23 Rep. Curdy  
16:23:46 Rep. McKamey  
16:24:15 Christy Clark, AGR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:24:41 Rep. Kassmier

16:25:07 Brief Recess

16:30:53 Reconvened with Rep. Kassmier as Chair and Rep. Sullivan excused.

**HEARING ON HB 677****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:31:15 Rep. Dan Bartel (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on HB 677, Revise laws to prohibit certain nonprofit organizations to purchase ag land.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:34:48 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

16:37:13 Commissioner Ross Butcher, Fergus County

16:37:48 Sen. Gillespie

16:39:29 Jack Connors, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

[EXHIBIT\(agh62a03\)](#)

16:40:55 Dallton Bliss, self

16:41:39 Commissioner Miles Hutton, Blaine County  
16:42:31 Leah Latray, self  
16:44:26 Ross Morgan, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGGA)  
16:45:17 Laura Boyce, self  
16:46:24 Rep. Sullivan rejoined the meeting.  
16:47:03 Carolyn Knox, self  
16:49:08 Deanna Robbins, self

**EXHIBIT(agh62a04)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:52:32 Charles Robison, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)  
16:53:28 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trust (MALT)  
16:55:43 Jim Utterback, Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT)  
16:57:04 John Tietz, Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT)  
16:58:55 Denny Iverson, self  
17:00:07 Liz Moore, Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA)  
17:03:33 David Brown, self  
17:06:14 Marry Rutherford, Montana Community Foundation (MCF)  
17:07:07 Dick Doland, The Trust for Public Land (TPL)  
17:09:03 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe  
17:10:38 Les Gilman, self

**EXHIBIT(agh62a05)**

17:13:11 Jim Huffman, self  
17:15:19 Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA)

**EXHIBIT(agh62a06)**

17:17:43 Paul McKenzie, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co

**EXHIBIT(agh62a07)**

17:19:00 Molly Stockdale, Travelers' Rest Connection

**EXHIBIT(agh62a08)**

17:20:42 Commissioner Juanita Vero, Missoula County

**EXHIBIT(agh62a09)**

17:22:44 Hannah Downey, Property and Environmental Research Center (PERC)

**EXHIBIT(agh62a10)**

17:24:42 Jennifer Doherty, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inc. (RMEF)

**EXHIBIT(agh62a11)**

17:25:10 Mike Nugent, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)  
17:25:37 Mark Aagenes, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
17:26:19 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

**EXHIBIT(agh62a12)**

17:26:49 Helena Maclay, self  
17:27:16 Coby Gierke, Montana State Parks Foundation (MSPF)  
17:27:44 Zach Bodhane, Western Landowners Alliance (WLA)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:28:33 Rep. McKamey  
17:30:23 Rep. Bartel  
17:30:34 Rep. Sullivan  
17:31:12 Jim Huffman, self  
17:32:10 Rep. Malone  
17:33:38 Rep. Bartel  
17:33:48 Chair Kassmier  
17:34:05 Rep. Malone  
17:34:35 Rep. Walsh  
17:38:38 Commissioner Butcher, Fergus County  
17:39:07 Rep. Marshall  
17:42:17 Rep. Bartel  
17:42:30 Rep. Malone  
17:43:03 Commissioner Butcher, Fergus County  
17:44:18 Rep. Sullivan  
17:44:58 Julia Altemus, MWPA  
17:45:52 Rep. Curdy  
17:46:23 Glenn Marx, MALT  
17:47:25 Rep. Ler  
17:49:07 Jim Utterback, PPLT  
17:49:16 Rep. Ler  
17:49:38 Rep. F. Smith  
17:50:51 Glenn Marx, MALT  
17:52:13 Vice Chair Dooling  
17:52:38 Rep. Bartel

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:53:21 Rep. Bartel  
  
17:57:02 Chair Kassmier  
  
17:58:02 Recess  
18:09:26 Reconvened with Rep. McKamey excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 681**

18:09:58 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 681 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

18:10:08 Rep. Curdy  
18:10:57 Chair Kassmier

18:11:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Funk, Rep. C. Knudsen and Rep. McKamey voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 688**

18:12:13 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 688 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

18:12:20 Rep. Malone  
18:12:38 Chair Kassmier  
18:12:48 Rep. Curdy  
18:13:25 Rep. McKamey joined the meeting.  
18:14:11 Rep. Anderson  
18:14:41 Chair Kassmier  
18:14:55 Vice Chair Olsen

18:15:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Funk and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 628**

18:15:49 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 628 DO PASS.**

18:16:09 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 628 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT**([agh62a13](#))

**Discussion:**

18:16:25 Chair Kassmier

18:16:51 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Funk and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy.

18:17:19 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Kassmier moved that **HB 628 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Funk and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 410**

18:18:19 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 410 DO PASS.**

18:19:27 **Motion:** Rep. Olsen moved that **HB 410 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT**([agh62a14](#))

**Discussion:**

18:19:41 Vice Chair Olsen

18:20:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Funk and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy.

18:21:40 Chair Kassmier  
18:21:44 Rep. Walsh

18:22:06 Vice Chair Olsen

18:22:34 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ler made a substitute motion that **HB 410 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried 11-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Curdy, Rep. Funk, Rep. Olsen, Rep. F. Smith, Rep. Sullivan and Rep. Whiteman Pena voting no. Rep. Funk and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 270**

18:23:57 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **SB 270 BE CONCURRED IN**.

#### **Discussion:**

18:24:05 Rep. Curdy

18:24:37 Rep. Malone

18:25:06 Rep. McKamey

18:25:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 13-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Beard, Rep. Ler, Rep. Malone and Rep. Marshall voting no. Rep. Funk and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy. Rep. McKamey will carry the bill.

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 307**

18:27:35 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **SB 307 BE CONCURRED IN**.

#### **Discussion:**

18:27:45 Vice Chair Olsen

18:28:59 Rep. Malone

18:29:20 **Vote:** Motion carried 16-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Olsen voting no. Rep. Funk and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy. Rep. Kassmier will carry the bill.

18:31:04 Chair Kassmier

18:31:30 Rep. Malone

18:31:56 Corina Hach, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

18:32:10 Chair Kassmier

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 18:32:27

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Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([agh62aad.pdf](#))