

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR

Call to Order: Chair Mark Noland, on March 31, 2021 at 08:00 AM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mark Noland, Chair (R)
Rep. Edward Buttrey, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Derek J. Harvey (D)
Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Rynalea Whiteman Pena (D)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Jordee Bomgardner, Committee Secretary
Jameson Walker, Legislative Branch
Monte Cole, 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 701, 3/31/2021; HB 704, 3/31/2021; HB 705, 3/31/2021

Executive Action: SB 108, SB 121, SB 308

HEARING ON HB 701**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:10:02 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 701, Generally revise marijuana laws.

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

08:16:16 Dave Lewis, Montana Cannabis Guild

08:22:28 Eric Seidle, Higher Standards (HS); Montana Advanced Caregivers (MAC)

08:23:30 Rep. Marshall left the meeting.

08:27:42 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections (YC)

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a02\)](#)

08:34:46 Niles Hushka, self

08:44:25 Steve Zabawa, Safe Montana

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a03\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

08:50:12 Adam Arnold, Collective Elevation (CE)

08:52:20 Rep. Gist joined the meeting.

08:58:37 Antonette Lininger, Sacred Sun Farms

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a04\)](#)

09:05:03 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a05\)](#)

09:06:28 Rep. Gunderson left the meeting.

09:11:09 Elliot Lindsey, Grizzly Pine

09:15:49 Evan Kajander, Apogee Gardens

09:19:21 Zach Block, Montana Cannabis Guild; Montana Canna

09:20:04 Vice Chair Buttrey left the meeting.

09:21:48 Scott Reichner, Safe Montana; Wrong for Montana

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a06\)](#)

09:27:46 John Hubbard, Montana Medicinals

09:31:51 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

09:33:10 Ryan Saghatelian, Greener Pastures (GP)

09:35:02 Matt Boyle, Collective Elevation (CE)

09:38:40 Misty Carey, Bloom Montana

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a07\)](#)

09:41:09 Rep. Marshall joined the meeting.

09:42:02 Ben Forsyth, self

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a08\)](#)

09:47:34 Rep. Novak left the meeting.

09:47:41 Michaela Schager, Montana Medicinals

09:48:35 Rep. Olsen joined the meeting.

09:51:31 Tara Holloway, Alternative Wellness

09:51:56 Tiffany Kuglin, Double Dogs Cannabis
 09:52:15 Dana Wheeler, self
 09:52:33 Tiffany King, Awesome Blossoms
 09:53:08 Joanna Barney, Sacred Sun Farms
 09:53:39 Patrick Webb, Americans for Prosperity
 09:53:54 Sam Forstag, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU)
 09:54:23 Melissa Umansky, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory (FiDi Labs)
 09:54:50 Laurie Little Dog, self
 09:55:07 Kristen Page-Nei, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN)
 09:55:31 Lois Fitzpatrick, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN)
 09:55:53 Frank Szollosi, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
 09:56:23 Carrie Nyssen, American Lung Association (ALA)
 09:56:47 Amanda Cahil, American Heart Association (AHA)
 09:57:02 Annie Tegen, Tobacco Free Kids

Informational Testimony:

09:57:37 Zoe Barnard, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
 09:58:09 Derek Bell, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)
 09:58:16 Vice Chair Buttrey joined the meeting and assumed the Chair.
 09:58:30 Kristan Barbour, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)
 09:58:50 Erin Ducharme, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
 09:59:14 John Hoofman, Bloom Montana
 09:59:37 Josh Gosney, Infinity Wellness
 10:00:13 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)
 10:00:41 Barbra Turner, Alternative ReLeaf

EXHIBIT(buh63a09)

10:01:29 Andre Umansky, Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory (FiDi Labs)
 10:01:54 Becky Schlauch, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:02:38 Rep. Loge
 10:03:00 Ian Foley, AGR
 10:03:06 Rep. Gunderson joined the meeting.
 10:03:31 Rep. Harvey
 10:03:59 Josh Gosney, Infinity Wellness

EXHIBIT(buh63a10)

10:04:18 Rep. Harvey
 10:04:32 Josh Gosney, Infinity Wellness
 10:05:52 Vice Chair Sullivan
 10:06:20 Kristan Page-Nei
 10:07:39 Rep. Olsen
 10:09:26 Rep. Hopkins
 10:09:50 Rep. Olsen
 10:10:12 Rep. Noland
 10:15:28 Rep. Hopkins
 10:16:33 Rep. Noland
 10:16:58 Coleen Smith, YC
 10:17:10 Rep. Noland

10:21:39 Rep. Hopkins
10:21:52 Rep. Noland
10:22:18 Niles Hushka, self
10:23:30 Rep. Noland
10:23:40 Kristan Barbour, DOR
10:23:58 Rep. Noland
10:25:18 Andre Umansky, FiDi Labs
10:26:16 Rep. Noland
10:27:24 Rep. Hopkins
10:28:20 Rep. Noland
10:30:34 Derek Bell, DOR
10:31:32 Rep. Noland
10:31:40 Rep. Noland left the meeting.
10:31:49 Rep. Curdy
10:32:59 Kristan Barbour, DOR
10:33:18 Derek Bell, DOR
10:34:07 Rep. Curdy
10:34:24 Derek Bell, DOR
10:34:38 Vice Chair Sullivan
10:35:27 Rep. Hopkins
10:36:18 Vice Chair Sullivan
10:36:48 Derek Bell, DOR
10:37:30 Vice Chair Sullivan
10:38:23 Rep. Hopkins
10:38:48 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
10:41:40 Josh Gosney, Infinity Wellness
10:43:06 Rep. Novak
10:45:27 Rep. Hopkins
10:46:45 Rep. Novak
10:47:08 Rep. Marshall
10:48:11 Rep. Noland joined the meeting.
10:50:11 Zoe Barnard, DPHHS
10:50:31 Chair Buttrey
10:53:11 Rep. Hopkins
10:54:03 Chair Buttrey
10:54:14 Rep. Noland assumed the Chair.
10:54:27 Rep. Hopkins
10:54:40 Rep. Curdy
10:55:25 Derek Bell, DOR
10:55:49 Andre Umansky, FiDi Labs
10:57:16 Rep. Curdy
10:58:47 Adrian Umansy, FiDi Labs
10:59:10 Rep. Curdy
10:59:16 Rep. Harvey left the meeting.
11:00:23 Kristan Barbour, DOR
11:01:17 Adam Arnold, CE
11:03:23 Rep. Galloway
11:05:45 Rep. Hopkins
11:07:42 Vice Chair Sullivan
11:09:30 Elliot Lindsey, Grizzly Pine

11:09:56 Rep. Gist left the meeting.

Closing by Sponsor:

11:10:13 Rep. Hopkins

HEARING ON HB 704

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

11:13:42 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 704, Generally revise state lottery laws.

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a11\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

11:15:59 Tom Tucker, Montana Board of Horse Racing

11:17:51 Dan Fuchs, Montana Racehorse Owners and Breeders Coalition (MROBC)

11:18:50 Dennis Wertz, self

11:19:23 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association (MCMOA)

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a12\)](#)

11:21:00 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

11:21:35 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)

11:22:00 John Hayes, Montana Board of Horse Racing; Cascade County Tavern Association

11:22:49 Sparky Kottke, Great Falls Turf Club (GFTC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

11:23:43 Bryan Costigan, Montana Lottery

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

11:24:03 Rep. Loge

11:24:21 Rep. Buttrey

11:24:53 Rep. Fitzgerald

11:26:02 Bryan Costigan, Montana Lottery

Closing by Sponsor:

11:26:19 Rep. Buttrey

HEARING ON HB 705

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

11:27:45 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 705, Generally revise alcohol and gaming laws.

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a13\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

11:29:22 Jessie Luther, Hospitality Development Association of Montana (HDAM)

[EXHIBIT\(buh63a14\)](#)

11:41:38 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)
11:42:42 Rep. Harvey joined the meeting.
11:47:41 Neil Peterson, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)
11:48:09 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MTRA)
11:48:45 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association (MCMOA)
11:49:29 Mark Lewis, Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana (LSOAMT)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

11:50:12 Becky Schlauch, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

11:51:07 Rep. Marshall
11:52:02 Rep. Buttrey
11:52:25 Jessie Luther, HDAM
11:53:24 Vice Chair Sullivan
11:53:39 Rep. Buttrey
11:53:57 Chair Noland
11:54:44 Rep. Buttrey

Closing by Sponsor:

11:55:03 Rep. Buttrey

11:56:03 Chair Noland
11:58:40 Becky Schlauch, DOR
12:06:48 Chair Noland
12:06:55 Rep. Buttrey
12:08:23 Chair Noland

12:08:30 Brief Recess
12:12:19 Reconvened

12:12:53 Vice Chair Sullivan
12:13:11 Chair Noland

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 108

12:13:19 **Motion:** Rep. Buttrey moved that **SB 108 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:13:49 **Motion:** Rep. Buttrey moved that **SB 108 BE AMENDED.**
EXHIBIT(buh63a15)

Discussion:

12:13:53 Vice Chair Buttrey

12:15:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 19-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Olsen voting no. Rep. Abbott, Rep. Funk, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Gist, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Whiteman Pena and Rep. Zolnikov voted by proxy.

12:16:37 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Buttrey moved that **SB 108 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 15-5 by voice vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Curdy, Rep. Olsen, Rep. Sullivan and Rep. Whiteman Pena voting no. Rep. Abbott, Rep. Funk, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Gist, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Whiteman Pena and Rep. Zolnikov voted by proxy. Rep. Bedey will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 121

12:17:46 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Buttrey moved that **SB 121 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Abbott, Rep. Funk, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Gist, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Whiteman Pena and Rep. Zolnikov voted by proxy. Rep. Buttrey will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 308

12:19:10 **Motion:** Rep. Buttrey moved that **SB 308 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

12:19:51 Rep. Olsen
12:20:22 Vice Chair Buttrey
12:20:30 Chair Noland

12:20:33 **Vote:** Motion carried 19-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Olsen voting no. Rep. Abbott, Rep. Funk, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Gist, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Whiteman Pena and Rep. Zolnikov voted by proxy. Rep. Walsh will carry the bill.

12:21:28 Chair Noland
12:21:32 Rep. Loge

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:21:52

Jordee Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([buh63aad.pdf](#))