

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chair Joshua Kassmier, on April 1, 2021 at 3:00 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. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Rynalea Whiteman Pena (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (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 697, 3/29/2021; HB 700, 3/29/2021; HB 708, 3/30/2021
Executive Action on: HB 708; HB 700; HB 697; HB 677

15:03:47 Vice Chair Dooling assumed the Chair.
15:04:00 Rep. Ler left the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 697

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:04:05 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 697, Reimburse landowners for crop damage by wildlife.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:05:35 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a02\)](#)

15:06:48 Rep. Beard joined the meeting.
15:09:42 Jay Bodner, Montana Stackgrowers Association (MSGA)
15:10:57 Mark Robbins, self
15:13:17 Guy Maberry, self

Opponents' Testimony:

15:14:40 Stan Frasier, self
15:16:22 Steve Platt, Helena Hunters and Anglers (HHAA)
15:17:14 Dustin Temple, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
15:19:24 Quentin Kujala, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
15:24:45 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a03\)](#)

15:27:49 Dale Tribby, Montana Sportsman Alliance (MSA)
15:30:05 Eric Melson, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a04\)](#)

15:32:36 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a05\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:35:31 Rep. Malone
15:37:46 Quentin Kujala, FWP

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a06\)](#)

15:38:07 Rep. Malone
15:38:48 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:39:34 Rep. McKamey
15:41:12 Stan Frasier, self
15:41:29 Rep. Marshall
15:41:45 Rep. Kassmier
15:42:38 Rep. F. Smith
15:44:15 Quentin Kujala, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

15:44:45 Rep. Kassmier

HEARING ON HB 708

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:45:46 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 708, Study of food security and agricultural prosperity.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:46:24 Jay Bodner, Montana Stackgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:47:35 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:51:19 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:52:32 Christy Clark, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:53:25 Vice Chair Olsen

15:54:07 Rep. Kassmier

15:54:26 Rep. McKamey

Closing by Sponsor:

15:55:12 Rep. Kassmier

15:56:16 Rep. Marshall left the meeting.

15:56:19 Rep. Kassmier assumed the Chair.

HEARING ON HB 700

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:56:30 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 700, Generally revise forest and agriculture laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:00:38 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

16:01:25 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)

16:01:32 Rep. Curdy joined the meeting.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:02:56 Rep. Malone

16:03:39 Rep. Dooling

16:04:04 Vice Chair Olsen

16:04:56 Rep. Dooling

16:07:13 Vice Chair Olsen
16:07:21 Rep. Walsh joined the meeting.
16:07:51 Rep. Dooling
16:08:30 Vice Chair Olsen
16:08:42 Rep. Dooling

Closing by Sponsor:

16:09:14 Rep. Dooling

16:10:28 Vice Chair Olsen
16:10:38 Chair Kassmier
16:10:57 Corina Hach, Legislative Service Division (LSD)
16:13:16 Chair Kassmier

16:13:40 Recess
16:25:51 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 697

16:26:13 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 697 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:26:27 Rep. McKamey
16:27:04 Vice Chair Olsen
16:28:03 Rep. McKamey

16:29:31 **Vote:** 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, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 700

16:31:01 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 700 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:31:14 Vice Chair Olsen

16:31:42 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 700 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Funk, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

EXHIBIT(agh64a07)

16:32:21 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Kassmier moved that **HB 700 DO PASS AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Funk, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 708

16:33:05 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 708 DO PASS.**

16:33:19 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 708 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Funk, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a08\)](#)

16:34:01 **Motion:** Rep. Kassmier moved that **HB 708 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

Discussion:

16:34:09 Rep. McKamey

16:34:26 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Beard, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler, Rep. Malone and Rep. Marshall voting no. Rep. Funk, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

16:35:55 Vice Chair Olsen

16:36:12 Chair Kassmier

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 677

16:36:39 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 677 DO PASS**.

16:36:52 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 677 BE AMENDED**. 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, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a09\)](#)

16:38:28 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 677 BE AMENDED**.

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a10\)](#)

Discussion:

16:38:49 Vice Chair Olsen

16:39:04 Corina Hach, LSD

16:39:45 Vice Chair Olsen

16:40:32 Rep. Beard

16:41:23 Rep. McKamey

16:42:16 **Vote:** Motion failed 7-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Anderson, Rep. Binkley, Rep. Dooling, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voting aye. Rep. Funk, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

16:43:28 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 677 BE AMENDED**.

[EXHIBIT\(agh64a11\)](#)

Discussion:

16:43:45 Corina Hach, LSD

16:44:08 Vice Chair Oslen

16:44:15 **Vote:** 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, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

16:45:20 **Motion:** Rep. Kassmier moved that **HB 677 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:45:29 Rep. Walsh
16:47:24 Rep. Malone
16:48:18 Rep. Curdy
16:49:25 Rep. Whiteman Pena
16:49:33 Rep. Beard
16:51:55 Rep. McKamey

16:53:57 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dooling made a substitute motion that **HB 677 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Rep. Funk, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. Ler and Rep. Marshall voted by proxy.

16:55:37 Vice Chair Olsen
16:56:08 Rep. Anderson
16:56:52 Vice Chair Olsen
16:56:59 Rep. Curdy
16:57:05 Rep. McKamey
16:57:15 Chair Kassmier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:57:27

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([agh64aad.pdf](#))