

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Becky Beard, on April 1, 2021 at 8:00 AM, in Room 152 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Becky Beard, Chair (R)
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Tom Welch, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)
Rep. Jeremy Trebas (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Alice Buckley (D)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Megan Moore, Legislative Branch
Jacquie Simmons, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Kathy Sangray, Committee Secretary

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: SB 326, 3/29/2021; HB 701, 3/29/2021; HB 707, 3/31/2021; HB 670,
3/31/2021

Executive Action: HB 701, SB 182, SB 214, SB 326, SB 212

HEARING ON SB 326**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:02:54 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 326, Provide for irrigation district improvements by resolution.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:04:45 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
08:08:44 Scott Aspenlieder, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
08:13:12 John Crowley, Bitterroot Irrigation District
08:14:36 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)
08:15:21 Jay Bodner, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA)

Opponents' Testimony: None**Informational Testimony:**

08:16:50 Dan Semmens, State of Montana bond counsel

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a01\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:18:36 Vice Chair Fern
08:19:20 Dan Semmens, State of Montana Bond Counsel
08:20:06 Rep. Malone
08:20:47 Sen. Lang
08:22:35 Dan Semmens, State of Montana Bond Counsel
08:24:20 Rep. Thane
08:24:52 Scott Aspenlieder, MWRA
08:26:18 Rep. Dunwell
08:26:30 John Semple, MGGA
08:27:25 Chair Beard
08:27:45 Mike Murphy, MWRA
08:28:09 Chair Beard
08:29:02 Dan Semmens, State of Montana Bond Counsel

Closing by Sponsor:

08:32:46 Sen. Lang

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a02\)](#)

HEARING ON HB 670**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

08:33:45 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB 670, Generally revise laws to implement recreational marijuana program.

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

08:38:07 Michael Jefferson Keefe

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a04\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

08:40:13 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
08:41:48 Ruben Kastren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

Informational Testimony:

08:43:26 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Information Association (MTCIA)

EXHIBIT(tah64a05)

08:44:20 Ian Foley, Department of Agriculture (AGR)
08:44:55 Kristan Barbour, Adult Use Marijuana Program, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:45:51 Rep. Trebas
08:46:20 Rep. Skees
08:47:37 Rep. Dunwell
08:47:45 Kate Cholewa, MTCIA
08:49:38 Rep. Dunwell
08:49:57 Jason Lay, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)
08:50:58 Derek Bell, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)
08:51:52 Rep. Malone
08:52:23 Rep. Skees
08:52:56 Rep. Marler
08:53:43 Jake Brown, MCV
08:54:42 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
08:55:25 Jake Brown, MCV
08:56:20 Vice Chair Fern
08:56:59 Rep. Skees
08:57:34 Rep. C. Hinkle
08:57:51 Rep. Skees
08:59:03 Rep. Trebas
08:59:14 Rep. Skees
09:00:51 Chair Beard
09:01:15 Rep. Skees
09:01:25 Rep. Malone
09:01:56 Rep. Skees
09:02:06 Rep. Dunwell
09:03:10 Kate Cholewa, MTCIA

Closing by Sponsor:

09:03:43 Rep. Skees

09:07:14 Rep. Abbott
09:07:23 Chair Beard

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

09:07:55 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 701, Generally revise marijuana laws.

EXHIBIT(tah64a06)

09:13:17 Rep. Marler

Opponents' Testimony:

09:14:24 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

09:14:59 Ruben Kastren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

Informational Testimony:

09:16:18 Zoe Barnard, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

09:17:07 Ian Foley, Department of Agriculture (AGR)

09:17:19 Erin Ducharme, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

09:17:49 Kristan Barbour, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:19:05 Erica Siate, self

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:20:23 Rep. Abbot

09:20:29 Rep. Malone

09:20:59 Rep. Hopkins

09:21:51 Rep. R. Knudsen

09:22:39 Rep. Hopkins

09:24:47 Rep. Dunwell

09:25:36 Zoe Barnard, DPHHS

09:25:50 Rep. Dunwell

09:26:15 Erin Ducharm, DPHHS

09:26:34 Rep. Dunwell

09:26:55 Rep. Hopkins

09:28:07 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

09:28:19 Rep. Hopkins

09:28:47 Rep. Abbott

09:29:33 Zoe Barnard, DPHHS

09:31:01 Rep. Trebas

09:31:49 Derek Bell, Department of Revenue (DOR)

09:32:36 Rep. Trebas

09:33:00 Rep. Hopkins

09:33:29 Vice Chair Fern

09:34:21 Rep. Hopkins

09:36:44 Rep. R. Knudsen

09:37:06 Zoe Barnard, DPHHS

Closing by Sponsor:

09:39:24 Rep. Hopkins

HEARING ON HB 707**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:41:26 Rep. Brad Tschida (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 707, Generally revise recreational marijuana laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:46:00 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

09:47:20 Ruben Kastren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

Informational Testimony:

09:48:12 Kristan Barbour, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:48:35 Rep. Malone

09:49:02 Rep. Tschida

09:50:22 Chair Beard

09:50:42 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:51:29 Rep. R. Knudsen

09:52:07 Jake Brown, MCV

09:53:15 Rep. Thane

09:53:47 Rep. Tschida

09:54:51 Derek Bell, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

09:55:52 Rep. Brewster

09:57:01 Rep. Tschida

09:58:07 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

09:59:05 Derek Bell, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

10:00:04 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

10:00:31 Rep. Tschida

Closing by Sponsor:

10:01:30 Rep. Tschida

Committee Business:

10:03:54 Rep. Malone

10:04:08 Chair Beard

10:05:28 Rep. Abbott

10:06:17 Chair Beard

10:08:04 Megan Moore, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

10:08:37 Rep. R. Knudsen

10:09:04 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

10:09:44 Megan Moore, LSD

10:10:44 Chair Beard

10:11:05 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

10:11:23 Chair Beard

10:11:31 Megan Moore, LSD

10:11:57 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

10:12:08 Megan Moore, LSD

10:12:30 Chair Beard
10:12:43 Rep. R. Knudsen
10:12:58 Chair Beard
10:13:59 Megan Moore, LSD

10:14:30 Recessed
10:57:58 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 701

10:58:18 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **HB 701 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:58:26 Rep. R. Knudsen
10:58:53 Rep. Trebas
10:59:27 Vice Chair Fern
11:00:54 Rep. Kassmier
11:01:39 Chair Beard
11:01:46 Rep. Malone
11:02:08 Chair Beard
11:05:45 Rep. Dunwell

11:06:38 **Vote:** Motion fails 8-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Beard, Rep. Brewster, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Malone, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Welch voting yes. Rep. Kerns voted by proxy.

11:08:17 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **HB 701 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 12 to 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Beard, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. R. Knudsen, Rep. Malone, Rep. Mitchell voting no. Rep. Kerns voted by proxy.

11:09:46 Chair Beard

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 182

11:10:12 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 182 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

11:10:22 Vice Chair Fern

11:11:07 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 182 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. Kerns voted by proxy. Rep. Trebas will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 214

11:12:53 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 214 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion failed 5-13 by roll call vote with Rep. Fielder, Rep. C. Hinkle, Rep. Kassmier, Rep. Malone and Rep. Mitchell voting aye. Rep. Kerns voted by proxy.

11:14:31 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 214 BE TABLED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Kerns voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 326

11:15:15 **Motion:** Rep. Welch moved that **SB 326 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

11:15:26 Rep. R. Knudsen

11:15:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Kerns voted by proxy. Rep. Malone will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 212

11:16:19 Vice Chair Welch

11:16:32 Megan Moore, LSD

11:17:37 Chair Beard

11:18:14 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 212 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE**. Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Dunwell voting no. Rep. Kerns voted by proxy.

11:18:18 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 212 BE CONCURRED IN**.

11:19:18 **Motion:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 212 BE AMENDED**.
[EXHIBIT\(tah64a07\)](#)

Discussion:

11:19:22 Megan Moore, LSD

11:20:08 Rep. Thane

11:20:38 Rep. R. Knudsen

11:20:43 Vice Chair Fern

11:20:57 Rep. R. Knudsen

11:21:24 Rep. Marler

11:22:05 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-1 by voice vote with Rep. Marler voting no. Rep. Kerns and Rep. Trebas voted by proxy.

11:22:59 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. R. Knudsen moved that **SB 212 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 14-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Malone, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. Kerns and Rep. Trebas voted by proxy. Rep. Knudsen will carry the bill.

11:24:57 Rep. Kassmier

11:25:16 Chair Beard

11:25:32 Rep. Kassmier

11:25:57 Chair Beard

11:26:39 Recessed
12:15:01 Reconvened
12:15:08 Chair Beard

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 701

12:15:16 **Motion:** Rep. Kassmier moved to **RECONSIDER ACTION** on **HB 701**.

Discussion:

12:15:34 Megan Moore, LSD

12:16:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. Kerns and Rep. Marler voted by proxy.

12:17:24 **Motion:** Rep. Kassmier moved that **HB 701 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

12:17:33 Rep. Kassmier

12:17:56 Vice Chair Fern

12:19:12 Rep. Malone

12:19:30 Rep. Trebas

12:19:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott, Rep. Buckley, Rep. Dunwell, Rep. Fern, Rep. Marler and Rep. Thane voting no. Rep. Kerns and Rep. Marler voted by proxy.

12:20:58 Chair Beard

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:21:11

Kathy Sangray, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([tah64aad.pdf](#))