

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: Chair Steve Hinebauch, on February 18, 2021 at 2:54 PM, in Room 422
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Tom Jacobson, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. David Howard (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Izmerai Alvarado, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch
Alex Colafrancesco, 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 224, 2/16/2021; HB 225, 2/16/2021

Executive Action: SR 61, HB 163

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 61

14:54:05 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SR 61 BE NOT ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

14:55:38 Sen. Flowers
14:55:47 Sen. Brown
14:56:09 Sen. Flowers
14:57:12 Chair Hinebauch
14:58:12 Sen. Cohenour

14:59:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Howard, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 163

15:00:17 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **HB 163 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:00:29 Chair Hinebauch

15:00:52 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **HB 163 BE AMENDED.**

EXHIBIT(fis34a01)

Discussion:

15:01:16 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division
15:02:16 Rep. Fielder
15:02:47 Chair Hinebauch
15:02:55 Sen. Brown
15:03:37 Sen. Flowers
15:03:48 Sen. Cohenour
15:04:07 Chair Hinebauch

15:04:35 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-0 by voice vote. Sen. Jacobson voted by proxy. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan were excused.

15:05:15 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **HB 163 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:05:25 Sen. Flowers
15:05:44 Chair. Hinebauch

15:05:50 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Howard, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy. Sen. Brown will carry the bill.

HEARING ON HB 224**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:07:06 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), , opened the hearing on HB224, Allow for the snaring of wolves in Montana by licensed trappers.

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a02\)](#)

15:12:55 Sen. Ellsworth left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:18:05 Garrett Bacon, East Helena

15:19:24 Scott Boulanger, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association

15:20:16 Greg Hinkle, Thompson Falls

15:22:12 Jim Buell, Montana Trappers Association

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a03\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a04\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:24:08 Steven Clevidence,

15:25:55 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a05\)](#)

15:28:36 Caleb Gillis (speaking as a proponent)

15:29:12 Matt Trebesch, Olney

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a06\)](#)

15:31:38 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a07\)](#)

15:33:28 Sharona Gilbert, Helena

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a08\)](#)

15:34:35 Michelle Long, Stevensville

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a09\)](#)

15:36:59 Stephen Capra, executive director, Footloose Montana

15:38:59 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a10\)](#)

15:40:16 Diane Boyd, Kalispell

15:41:46 Rod Bullis, Helena

15:43:52 Shelley J. Coldiron, Whitefish

15:46:21 Mica Costerousse, Seeley Lake

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a11\)](#)

15:49:05 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a12\)](#)

15:51:06 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a13\)](#)

15:53:09 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a14\)](#)

15:55:28 Sue Ann Stephenson-Love, Great Falls
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a15\)](#)

15:58:10 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a16\)](#)

16:00:59 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition
 16:03:00 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana

Additional Testimony Received:
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a17\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

16:04:34 Ken McDonald, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:05:08 Sen. Brown
 16:05:41 Mr. McDonald, FWP
 16:06:37 Sen. Brown
 16:06:55 Mr. McDonald
 16:07:04 Sen. Brown
 16:07:43 Mr. Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies
 16:09:36 Sen. Brown
 16:09:51 Mr. Cooke
 16:09:55 Sen. Brown

16:10:14 David Pauli, Montana Animal Care Association (speaking as an opponent)
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a18\)](#)

16:12:51 Sen. Brown
 16:13:29 Rep Fielder
 16:15:38 Sen. Flowers
 16:16:15 Mr. McDonald
 16:17:02 Sen. Flowers
 16:17:16 Mr. McDonald
 16:18:08 Sen. Flowers
 16:18:32 Mr. McDonald
 16:18:58 Sen. Flowers
 16:19:17 Mr. McDonald
 16:19:47 Chair Hinebauch
 16:20:12 Rep. Fielder

Closing by Sponsor:

16:21:22 Rep. Fielder

HEARING ON HB 225

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:26:17 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), opened the hearing on HB225, Establish wolf trapping season dates.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:32:46 Garrett Bacon, East Helena

16:34:03 Greg Hinkle, Thompson Falls

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a19\)](#)

16:36:43 Jim Buell, Montana Trappers Association

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a20\)](#)

16:38:04 Caleb Gillis, Glen

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a21\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a22\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:39:18 Marc Cooke, Wolf of the Rockies

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a23\)](#)

16:40:53 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a24\)](#)

16:42:49 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a25\)](#)

16:44:06 Diane Boyd, Kalispell

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a26\)](#)

16:45:35 Shelley Coldiron, Whitefish

16:46:57 Margareta Marro, Whitefish

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a27\)](#)

16:49:24 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a28\)](#)

16:52:04 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a29\)](#)

16:54:02 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana

16:55:37 Dave Pauli, Montana Animal Care Association

[EXHIBIT\(fis34a30\)](#)

16:56:46 Sue Ann Stephenson-Love, Great Falls
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a31\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:
[EXHIBIT\(fis34a32\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

16:58:55 Ken McDonald, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:59:08 Sen. Cohenour
17:00:08 Mr. McDonald, FWP
17:00:29 Sen. Cohenour
17:00:38 Mr. McDonald
17:01:06 Sen. Brown
17:01:28 Ms. Boyd, citizen
17:01:36 Sen. Brown
17:02:06 Mr. McDonald
17:02:37 Sen. Cohenour
17:03:18 Mr. McDonald
17:03:49 Sen. Cohenour
17:04:10 Mr. McDonald

Closing by Sponsor:

17:04:27 Rep Fielder

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:48 PM

Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fis34aad.pdf](#))