

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME

**Call to Order:** Chair Steve Hinebauch, on February 25, 2021 at 3:22 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. Tom Jacobson, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference**

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

**Members Excused:**

Sen. David Howard (R)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Izmerai Alvarado, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch  
Alex Colafrancesco, RMC

**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: SJ 18, 2/24/2021; SB 267, 2/18/2021; SB 337, 2/24/2021; SB 354, 2/24/2021; SB 306, 2/24/2021; SB 314, 2/24/2021; SB 327, 2/23/2021; SB 360, 2/24/2021

Executive Action: SJ 18, SB 267, SB 337, SB 354, SB 306, SB 314, SB 327, SB 360

Vice Chair Brown assumed the position as chair.

### **HEARING ON SB 327**

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

15:24:06 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB327, Revise waste of game law.

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

15:32:45 Kenton Hickethier, citizen

15:34:41 Mark Taylor, citizen

#### **Opponents' Testimony:**

15:25:57 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

[EXHIBIT\(fis40a01\)](#)

#### **Informational Testimony:**

15:27:29 Dave Loewen, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

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

15:27:53 Sen. Jacobson

15:28:58 Sen. Ellsworth,

15:29:14 Sen. Jacobson

15:29:38 Mr. Loewen, FWP

15:29:59 Sen. Jacobson

15:30:04 Mr. Loewen

15:30:20 Sen. Hertz

15:30:32 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division

15:31:09 Sen. Flowers

15:31:35 Mr. Loewen

15:31:50 Sen. Flowers

15:32:21 Mr. Loewen

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

15:35:29 Sen. Ellsworth

### **HEARING ON SB 306**

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

15:36:14 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB306, Revise structure of fish and game commission.

[EXHIBIT\(fis40a02\)](#)

15:36:19 Sen. Ellsworth left the meeting.

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

15:39:23 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited Montana

15:40:31 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation; also speaking for Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:42:43 Dave McEwen, Montana Wool Growers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:43:44 Randy Newberg, Bozeman  
15:46:54 Marc Cooke, Bitterroot Valley  
15:47:53 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana  
15:49:17 Clayton Elliot, Trout Unlimited  
15:50:18 Eric Melson, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

15:52:41 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a03\)](#)**

15:55:27 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a04\)](#)**

15:56:34 Dale Tribby, Montana Sportsmen Alliance

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a05\)](#)**

Additional Testimony Received:

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a06\)](#)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:59:00 Sen. Cohenour  
15:59:44 Sen. Lang  
16:01:49 Sen. Flowers  
16:04:01 Sen. Lang  
16:06:29 Sen. Flowers  
16:06:59 Sen. Lang  
16:07:03 Chair Hinebauch  
16:07:24 Sen. Lang  
16:07:54 Chair Hinebauch  
16:08:11 Sen. Lang  
16:08:37 Chair Hinebauch  
16:08:50 Sen. Lang  
16:10:04 Sen. Brown  
16:10:46 Sen. Lang  
16:11:09 Sen. Jacobson  
16:11:33 Sen. Lang  
16:11:50 Sen. Brown  
16:12:02 Sen. Jacobson  
16:12:18 Sen. Lang  
16:12:31 Sen. Jacobson  
16:12:59 Sen. Lang  
16:13:07 Chair Hinebauch  
16:13:39 Joe Kolman, Legislative Services Division  
16:14:36 Sen. Brown

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:14:43 Sen. Lang

16:15:31 Sen. Hinebauch assumed the position as chair.

### **HEARING ON SB 360**

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

16:15:47 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB360, Generally revising laws related to fisheries management.

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

16:17:38 Warren Illi, Kalispell

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(fis40a07\)\*\*](#)

16:20:26 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited Montana

#### **Opponents' Testimony:**

16:23:13 Clayton Elliott, Trout Unlimited

16:28:48 Mike Bias, Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana

16:34:02 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

16:35:13 Eric Melson, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

16:36:01 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(fis40a08\)\*\*](#)

#### **Informational Testimony:**

16:36:30 Quentin Kujala, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

#### **Additional Testimony Received:**

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(fis40a09\)\*\*](#)

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

16:37:07 Sen. Flowers

16:37:53 Sen. Lang

16:38:33 Sen. Brown

16:38:56 Chair Hinebauch

16:39:08 Sen. Lang

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

16:39:26 Sen. Lang

### **HEARING ON SB 337**

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

16:42:28 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB337, Revising laws related to grizzly bear relocation.

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

16:43:19 Quentin Kujala, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

16:45:23 Dave McEwen, Montana Wool Growers Association

16:46:03 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

16:46:51 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:47:32 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana

16:48:40 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council

**EXHIBIT(fis40a10)**

16:50:20 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

**EXHIBIT(fis40a11)**

16:51:24 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

**EXHIBIT(fis40a12)**

16:53:17 Bonnie Rice, Sierra Club

16:55:08 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

**EXHIBIT(fis40a13)**

16:57:26 Nick Gevock

**EXHIBIT(fis40a14)**

16:58:49 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition

Additional Testimony Received:

**EXHIBIT(fis40a15)**

Informational Testimony: None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:59:32 Sen. Flowers

17:00:12 Mr. Kujala, FWP

17:00:23 Sen. Flowers

17:00:41 Mr. Kujala

17:02:41 Sen. Flowers

17:03:22 Mr. Kujala

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:04:50 Sen. Lang

Vice Chair Brown assumed the position as chair.

**HEARING ON SB 354**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:06:07 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB354, Revise laws related to land servitudes and easements.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

17:09:51 Mark Taylor, citizen

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:12:06 Sen. Flowers  
17:12:25 Chair Brown  
17:12:59 Sen. Flowers  
17:13:32 Mr. Taylor, citizen  
17:16:06 Chair. Brown

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:16:48 Sen. Hinebauch

**HEARING ON SJ 18**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:17:53 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SJ18, Resolution on state management of grizzly bears.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

17:19:54 Dave McEwen, Montana Wool Growers Association  
17:20:09 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
17:20:44 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

17:21:35 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

**EXHIBIT(fis40a16)**

17:22:46 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition

17:26:03 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

**EXHIBIT(fis40a17)**

17:32:58 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

**EXHIBIT(fis40a18)**

**Informational Testimony:**

17:28:59 Quentin Kujala, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:29:17 Sen. Cohenour  
17:29:52 Mr. Kujala, FWP

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:30:15 Sen. Gillespie

17:34:51 Sen. Hinebauch resumed the position as the chair.

**HEARING ON SB 267**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:35:33 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB267, Authorize reimbursement for wolf trapping and hunting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

17:37:02 Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management  
**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a19\)](#)**

17:40:48 Matt Lumley, citizen

17:41:27 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association

17:43:22 Dave McEwen, Montana Wool Growers Association

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a20\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

17:44:39 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies  
**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a21\)](#)**

17:46:24 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana

17:48:32 Rick Lamplugh, Gardiner Montana

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a22\)](#)**

17:50:39 Kari Gunderson

17:51:49 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a23\)](#)**

17:52:57 Sharona Gilbert, Helena

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a24\)](#)**

17:53:52 Margareta Marro

17:55:29 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a25\)](#)**

17:56:34 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a26\)](#)**

17:57:14 Shelley Coldiron, Whitefish

17:58:03 Michelle Long, Stevensville

17:58:58 Susan Kronenberger, Helena

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a27\)](#)**

18:00:46 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

**[EXHIBIT\(fis40a28\)](#)**

18:03:07 Ronan Donovan, Bozeman

18:04:29 Jennifer Hickman, Humane Society of the United States  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a29\)](#)

18:06:22 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a30\)](#)

18:07:45 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a31\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a32\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

18:09:25 Quentin Kujala, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

18:09:55 Sen. Jacobson  
18:10:20 Mr. Kujala, FWP  
18:11:06 Sen. Jacobson  
18:11:38 Mr. Kujala  
18:12:17 Sen. Jacobson  
18:12:21 Mr. Kujala  
18:12:31 Sen. Jacobson  
18:12:47 Mr. Kujala

**Closing by Sponsor:**

18:13:19 Sen. Brown

18:15:32 Sen. Blasdel entered the meeting.

**HEARING ON SB 314**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

18:17:14 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB314, Revise laws related to wolf harvest.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

18:22:53 Dave McEwen, Montana Wool Growers Association  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a33\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

18:23:27 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a34\)](#)

18:25:36 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a35\)](#)

18:28:37 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a36\)](#)

18:30:06 Jennifer Hickman, The Humane Society of the United States  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a37\)](#)

18:32:05 Sue Ann Stephenson-Love  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a38\)](#)

18:33:59 Mica Costerousse  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a39\)](#)

18:35:03 Ronan Donovan, citizen  
 18:36:14 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands  
 18:38:06 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a40\)](#)

18:40:13 Michelle Long, Stevensville  
 18:41:36 Shelley Coldiron, Whitefish  
 18:42:44 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a41\)](#)

18:43:43 Margareta Marro, Whitefish  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a42\)](#)

18:44:43 Rick Lamplugh, Gardner  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a43\)](#)

18:45:56 Sharona Gilbert  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a44\)](#)

18:46:39 Sen. Cohenour  
 18:46:45 Chair Hinebauch  
 18:47:09 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a45\)](#)

18:48:34 Kari Gunderson, Swan Lake  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a46\)](#)

18:49:34 Bonnie Rice, Sierra Club

Additional Testimony Received:  
[EXHIBIT\(fis40a47\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

18:49:08 Quentin Kujala, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

18:52:17 Sen. McClafferty  
 18:52:45 Mr. Kujala, FWP  
 18:52:59 Sen. McClafferty  
 18:53:05 Sen. Flowers  
 18:53:35 Mr. Kujala

18:53:59 Sen. Flowers  
 18:54:04 Mr. Kujala  
 18:54:38 Sen. Cohenour  
 18:55:07 Mr. Kujala  
 18:55:59 Chair Hinebauch

**Closing by Sponsor:**

18:56:18 Sen. Brown  
  
 18:58:41 Chair Hinebauch  
  
 18:59:04 Recess  
 19:13:42 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 267**

19:14:06 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SB 267 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

19:14:18 Sen. McClafferty  
 19:14:28 Sen. Cohenour  
 19:15:14 Sen. Flowers  
 19:15:59 Sen. Brown

19:16:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 306**

19:16:50 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SB 306 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

19:16:56 Sen Brown  
 19:17:11 Sen Jacobson  
 19:17:50 Chair Hinebauch

19:18:13 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 314**

19:18:48 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SB 314 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

19:19:00 Sen Jacobson  
 19:19:31 Sen. Cohenour  
 19:20:41 Sen. Brown

19:21:23 Sen Flowers

19:22:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 327**

19:22:55 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SB 327 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

19:23:04 Sen. Brown

19:23:21 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-1 by voice vote with Sen. Cohenour voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 337**

19:24:12 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SB 337 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

19:24:38 Sen. Hertz

19:25:21 Sen. Jacobson

19:25:40 Chair Hinebauch

19:26:08 Sen. Brown

19:26:40 Sen. Flowers

19:28:18 Sen. Brown

19:29:02 Sen. Jacobson

19:29:41 Sen. Hertz

19:30:03 Chair Hinebauch

19:30:28 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 354**

19:31:07 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SB 354 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

19:31:13 Sen. Cohenour

19:31:48 Sen. Brown

19:32:27 Chair Hinebauch

19:33:00 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 360**

19:33:51 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SB 360 DO PASS.**

19:34:06 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Cohenour made a Substitute Motion that **SB 360 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion failed 4-7 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting aye. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

19:35:33 Chair Hinebaugh

19:35:42 Sen. Brown

19:36:22 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 18**

19:37:06 **Motion:** Sen. Brown moved that **SJ 18 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

19:37:49 Sen. Flowers

19:38:25 Sen. Cohenour

19:38:54 Sen. Jacobson

19:39:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers and Sen. McClafferty voting no. Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Howard and Sen. Keenan voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 7:40 PM

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Izmerai Alvarado, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([fis40aad.pdf](#))