

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION SELECT COMMITTEE ON MARIJUANA LAW

Call to Order: Chair Jason W. Ellsworth, on April 12, 2021 at 3:30 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jason W. Ellsworth, Chair (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. David Howard (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Corina Hach, Legislative Branch
Nadine Spencer, Committee Secretary
Anthony Flores Nuno, 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 670, 4/9/2021; HB 683, 4/9/2021

Executive Action: HB 683 - Be Tabled

15:31:10 Chair Ellsworth
15:32:48 Sen. Fitzpatrick entered the meeting.
15:33:01 Sen. Vance left the meeting.
15:38:26 Sen. Howard entered the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 683

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:35:49 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB683, Distribute recreational marijuana revenue to unfunded pension liability.

15:43:19 Chair Ellsworth
[EXHIBIT\(sms69a01\)](#)

15:43:32 Rep. Mercer

Proponents' Testimony:

15:49:15 Dore Schwinden, executive director, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration
15:49:54 Shawn Graham, executive director, Montana Teachers' Retirement System

Opponents' Testimony:

15:52:01 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
15:54:11 Patrick Johnson, citizen
15:54:54 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)
15:57:05 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group
15:57:37 Dick Dolan, state director, Northern Rockies, The Trust for Public Land
15:58:51 Chris Marchion, citizen
16:01:08 Nick Gevock, conservation director, Montana Wildlife Federation
16:02:29 Tom Puchlerz, citizen, Stevensville

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a02\)](#)

16:03:43 Caitlin Wardell, citizen
16:04:20 Kathy Hadley, citizen, Anaconda/Deer Lodge

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a03\)](#)

16:06:42 Alexa Runnion, citizen
16:07:18 Anne Jolliff, Montana Wildlife Federation; Artemis
16:08:36 Wyatt Clark, citizen, Conrad

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a04\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a05\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

16:10:52 Derek Bell, deputy chief legal counsel, Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:12:23 Sen. Cohenour
16:13:02 Mr. Leow, BHA
16:14:18 Sen. Morigeau
16:16:04 Rep. Mercer
16:19:01 Sen. Morigeau
16:19:44 Mr. Brown, MCV
16:20:27 Sen. Bogner
16:20:50 Rep. Mercer
16:22:21 Sen. Brown
16:22:46 Rep. Mercer
16:23:11 Sen. Brown
16:24:02 Rep. Mercer
16:24:39 Chair Ellsworth
16:25:25 Ms. Runnion, citizen
16:25:30 Chair Ellsworth
16:26:41 Ms. Runnion
16:27:04 Chair Ellsworth
16:27:37 Ms. Runnion
16:27:50 Chair Ellsworth
16:28:21 Ms. Hadley, citizen
16:28:54 Chair Ellsworth
16:29:08 Ms. Hadley
16:30:31 Chair Ellsworth
16:30:43 Ms. Hadley
16:31:38 Chair Ellsworth
16:32:32 Rep. Mercer

Closing by Sponsor:

16:35:53 Rep. Mercer

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

16:37:37 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB670, Generally revise laws to implement recreational marijuana program.

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a06\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:47:32 Rep. Matt Regier, HD 4

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a07\)](#)

16:49:20 Dore Schwinden, Public Employee Retirement Board
16:49:46 Christopher Young, attorney, Bozeman
16:53:18 Glen Broughton, owner, Starrbuds
16:55:01 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Information Association
16:57:23 Eric Seidle, Montana Advanced Caregivers; The Higher Standard
16:59:52 Rep. Becky Beard, HD 80
17:01:44 Misty Carey, medical cannabis provider
17:02:58 Brandon Medland, Missoula

17:04:05 Robert Long, business owner medical marijuana program
17:04:44 Blu Hines, medical marijuana provider, Columbia Falls
17:05:51 Tara Holloway, Alternative Wellness Montana
17:07:07 Antoinette Lininger, co-founder/CEO, Sacred Sun Farms
17:09:16 Tiffany King, medical marijuana provider, Awesome Blossoms, Kalispell
17:11:04 Joanna Barney, citizen, general manager, Sacred Sun Farms

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a08\)](#)

17:13:20 Rachel Jennings, citizen

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a09\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:13:58 Nick Gevock, conservation director, Montana Wildlife Federation

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a10\)](#)

17:15:13 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters
17:15:48 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
17:16:41 Patrick Johnson, citizen
17:17:29 Coleen Smith, substance abuse prevention specialist; executive director, Youth Connections

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a11\)](#)

17:19:55 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group
17:20:33 Chris Marchion, citizen
17:21:53 Dick Dolan, state director, Northern Rockies, The Trust for Public Land
17:24:05 Kathy Hadley

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a12\)](#)

17:25:27 Wyatt Clark, citizen, Conrad

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a13\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sms69a14\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

17:28:01 Ian Foley, Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:28:54 Sen. Bogner
17:33:27 Rep. Skees
17:34:06 Sen. Friedel
17:35:12 Rep. Skees
17:37:34 Sen. Brown
17:38:22 Mr. Foley, MDA
17:38:55 Sen. Brown
17:39:22 Mr. Foley
17:39:43 Sen. Jacobson
17:40:23 Rep. Skees
17:41:41 Sen. Jacobson
17:42:07 Rep. Skees

17:42:25 Sen. Jacobson
17:42:30 Rep. Skees
17:42:55 Chair Ellsworth
17:43:10 Rep. Skees
17:43:38 Chair Ellsworth
17:43:46 Rep. Skees
17:44:01 Chair Ellsworth
17:44:33 Rep. Skees
17:44:51 Chair Ellsworth
17:44:54 Rep. Skees redirect
17:45:23 Rep. Regier
17:45:41 Chair Ellsworth
17:45:56 Rep. Regier
17:46:00 Chair Ellsworth
17:46:10 Rep. Regier
17:46:24 Chair Ellsworth
17:46:47 Rep. Regier
17:47:27 Chair Ellsworth
17:47:57 Rep. Skees
17:48:28 Chair Ellsworth
17:48:38 Rep. Skees
17:48:48 Chair Ellsworth
17:49:32 Rep. Regier
17:50:06 Chair Ellsworth
17:50:23 Rep. Regier
17:50:46 Chair Ellsworth
17:51:08 Rep. Regier
17:51:36 Chair Ellsworth
17:52:16 Rep. Regier
17:52:47 Chair Ellsworth
17:53:16 Rep. Regier
17:53:36 Chair Ellsworth
17:53:45 Rep. Regier
17:54:08 Chair Ellsworth
17:54:45 Rep. Skees
17:55:26 Chair Ellsworth
17:56:17 Rep. Skees
17:56:39 Chair Ellsworth
17:56:58 Rep. Skees
17:57:22 Chair Ellsworth

Closing by Sponsor:

17:58:06 Rep. Skees

18:00:24 Chair Ellsworth

Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Howard, and Sen. Vance were excused.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 683

18:01:08 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **HB 683 BE CONCURRED IN.**

18:01:16 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Jacobson made a substitute motion that **HB 683 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Brown, Sen. Fitzpatrick and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:03 P.M.

Nadine Spencer, Secretary

ns

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sms69aad.pdf](#))