

## MINUTES

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason W. Ellsworth, on April 13, 2021 at 7:30 A.M., in Room 335 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. Tom Jacobson (D)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. David Howard (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Corina Hach, Legislative Branch  
Katherine Anderson, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Lauren de Paepe, 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: HB 655, 4/12/2021; HB 707, 4/12/2021  
Executive Action: HB 707 - Be Tabled

07:33:59 Sen. Vance left the meeting.

### **HEARING ON HB 655**

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

07:04:01 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB655, Generally revise marijuana laws.

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

07:37:33 Duane Williams, Motor Carriers of Montana

#### **Opponents' Testimony:** None

#### **Informational Testimony:**

07:38:40 Frank Szollosi, executive director, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

07:39:30 Chair Ellsworth

07:39:38 Mr. Szollosi, MWF

07:40:03 Sen. Morigeau entered the meeting.

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

07:40:16 Sen. Jacobson

07:40:40 Rep. Buttrey

07:41:12 Sen. Fitzpatrick

07:41:57 Rep. Buttrey

#### **EXHIBIT(sms70a01)**

07:42:07 Chair Ellsworth

07:42:27 Rep. Buttrey

07:42:44 Sen. Bogner

07:42:59 Rep. Buttrey

07:43:35 Sen. Cohenour

07:45:57 Rep. Buttrey

07:46:08 Sen. Fitzpatrick

07:46:24 Rep. Buttrey

07:46:59 Sen. Brown

07:48:21 Rep. Buttrey

07:48:45 Chair Ellsworth

07:50:27 Rep. Buttrey

07:51:00 Sen. Morigeau

07:52:40 Rep. Buttrey

07:53:12 Sen. Jacobson

07:53:50 Rep. Buttrey

07:54:33 Sen. Friedel

07:55:25 Rep. Buttrey

07:55:31 Sen. Cohenour

07:55:53 Rep. Buttrey

07:56:41 Sen. Brown

07:57:01 Rep. Buttrey

07:57:13 Chair Ellsworth

07:57:52 Rep. Buttrey  
07:58:32 Sen. Bogner  
07:58:47 Rep. Buttrey  
07:59:18 Chair Ellsworth  
07:59:33 Rep. Buttrey  
07:59:47 Sen. Morigeau  
08:01:06 Rep. Buttrey  
08:01:40 Chair Ellsworth

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:02:20 Rep. Buttrey

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

08:03:30 Rep. Brad Tschida (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB707, Generally revise recreational marijuana laws.

08:03:37 Sen. Fitzpatrick left the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

08:08:24 Coleen Smith, substance abuse prevention specialist, Youth Connections

**Opponents' Testimony:**

08:10:39 Dave Lewis, policy analyst, Montana Cannabis Guild  
08:13:38 Frank Szollosi, executive director, Montana Wildlife Federation  
08:16:01 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Association  
08:17:51 Dick Dolan, Northern Rockies director, The Trust for Public Land  
08:19:56 Chair Ellsworth  
08:20:58 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters  
08:22:05 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group  
08:22:39 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
08:24:11 Mariah Bond, citizen  
08:25:51 Sen. Morigeau  
08:26:06 Ms. Bond, citizen  
08:26:22 Steve Beck, provider, Missoula  
08:28:41 Robert Walker, chair, Montana Trails Coalition

**EXHIBIT(sms70a02)**

08:30:13 Erica Siate, Butte

**Informational Testimony:**

08:32:24 Kristan Barbour, acting administrator, Adult Use Cannabis Program, Department of Revenue (DOR)  
08:32:51 Chair Ellsworth

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

08:33:35 Sen. Friedel  
08:33:55 Rep. Tschida  
08:34:05 Sen. Brown

08:36:22 Rep. Tschida  
08:36:42 Chair Ellsworth  
08:41:05 Rep. Tschida  
08:41:19 Chair Ellsworth  
08:42:18 Ms. Barbour, DOR  
  
08:43:09 Sen. Lynch left the meeting.  
  
08:43:11 Chair Ellsworth  
08:44:53 Finn McMichael, economist, DOR  
08:45:36 Chair Ellsworth  
08:50:59 Derek Bell, DOR  
08:51:55 Chair Ellsworth  
08:57:35 Rep. Tschida

**Closing by Sponsor:**

08:58:33 Rep. Tschida

**Committee Business:**

09:00:11 Chair Ellsworth  
09:00:59 Sen. Brown  
09:01:27 Sen. Friedel  
09:02:20 Sen. Cohenour  
09:02:41 Chair Ellsworth  
  
09:02:59 Sen. Jacobson, Sen. Morigeau and Sen. Bogner left the meeting.  
  
09:03:57 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Cohenour moved that **HB 707 BE TABLED**. Motion carried 10-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown and Sen. Friedel voting no. Sen. Bogner, Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Howard, Sen. Jacobson, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.  
  
09:05:22 Chair Ellsworth  
09:06:55 Sen. Friedel  
09:07:00 Chair Ellsworth

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([sms70aad.pdf](#))