

MINUTES

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason W. Ellsworth, on April 14, 2021 at 3:30 P.M., in Room 317 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. Chris Friedel (R)
- Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
- Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
- Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)

Members Excused:

- Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
- Sen. David Howard (R)
- Sen. Gordon Vance (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Corina Hach, Legislative Branch
Megan Moore, Legislative Branch
Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary
Coleen Street, 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 701, 4/12/2021

Discussion:

15:54:16 Chair Ellsworth
15:54:42 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund (MSF)
15:55:59 Sen. Friedel
15:56:28 Mr. Braun, MSF
15:57:01 Sen. Friedel
15:57:04 Mr. Braun
15:57:20 Sen. Brown
15:57:28 Mr. Braun
15:57:43 Chair Ellsworth

15:57:55 Sen. Lynch entered the meeting.

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

15:58:08 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 701, Generally revise marijuana laws.

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a01\)](#)

16:02:46 Chair Ellsworth

Presentation:

16:03:07 Kurt Alme, budget director, Governor's Office (GOV)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:09:39 Chair Ellsworth
16:09:52 Sen. Jacobson
16:10:09 Mr. Alme, GOV
16:10:37 Sen. Jacobson
16:10:53 Mr. Alme
16:11:53 Sen. Jacobson
16:11:58 Mr. Alme
16:12:54 Chair Ellsworth
16:13:26 Sen. Jacobson
16:13:30 Chair Ellsworth
16:13:42 Sen. Jacobson

Presentation:

16:13:55 Zoe Barnard, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a02\)](#)**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:20:53 Sen. Friedel
16:21:03 Ms. Barnard, DPHHS
16:21:33 Sen. Friedel
16:21:43 Ms. Barnard
16:22:22 Sen. Lynch
16:22:46 Ms. Barnard
16:23:30 Sen. Lynch

16:23:41 Ms. Barnard
16:24:07 Sen. Lynch
16:24:34 Ms. Barnard
16:25:37 Sen. Morigeau
16:26:02 Ms. Barnard
16:26:26 Sen. Jacobson
16:26:40 Sen. Lynch
16:27:13 Ms. Barnard
16:27:35 Sen. Lynch
16:27:46 Ms. Barnard
16:28:06 Sen. Jacobson
16:28:18 Ms. Barnard
16:29:19 Chair Ellsworth

Proponents' Testimony:

16:30:23 Dave Lewis, citizen
16:33:13 Roger Hagan, Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, Montana Department of
the American Legion
16:34:43 Josh Van De Wetering, attorney, Lionheart
16:36:22 Adam Arnold, Collective Elevation
16:38:38 Stephen Zamawa, SafeMontana
16:40:54 David Liberman, Lionheart Caregiving
16:43:22 Colleen Rahn, National Alliance of Mental Illness Montana
16:44:24 Scott Richard, Sage Montana

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a03\)](#)

16:46:31 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a04\)](#)

16:49:18 Mary Windecker, Behavioral Health Alliance of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a05\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a06\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:51:25 Elliot Lindsey, citizen
16:53:07 William Geer, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a07\)](#)

16:55:13 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters
16:56:02 John Hubbard, Montana Medicinals
16:57:58 Zack Bloch, Cannabis Guild; Montana Cannabis
17:00:05 Antonette Lininger, Sacred Sun Farms; Cannabis Market of Montana
17:02:15 Brandon Madland, medical marijuana provider
17:03:34 Peppa Peterson, Montana Cannabis Guild

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a08\)](#)

17:05:54 Joanna Barney, Sacred Sun Farms

[EXHIBIT\(sms71a09\)](#)

17:08:07 Glenn Broughton, Starrbuds
17:10:26 Barbie Turner, Alternative Releaf
17:12:17 Andrew Posewits, citizen
17:13:25 Frank Szollosi, Montana Wildlife Federation

EXHIBIT(sms71a10)

17:15:36 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
17:17:06 Victor Davis, citizen
17:19:31 Mchaela Schagor, Montana Medicinals
17:21:42 Andre Umansky, Fidelity Diagnostics Lab
17:23:27 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group
17:24:53 Erica Siate, citizen
17:27:11 Robert Walker, Montana Trails Coalition

EXHIBIT(sms71a11)

17:28:53 Melissa Umansky, citizen
17:29:47 Kathy Hadley, citizen
17:31:53 Jim Vashro, Flathead Wildlife, Inc.

EXHIBIT(sms71a12)

17:33:25 Mickey Smith, citizen

EXHIBIT(sms71a13)

17:34:56 Lars Martinson, citizen

Proponents' Testimony:

17:36:17 Leah Fitch-Brody, Missoula City-County Health Department

Opponents' Testimony:

17:37:58 Ryan Busse, citizen

Additional Testimony Received:

EXHIBIT(sms71a14)

Informational Testimony:

17:40:09 Derek Bell, Department of Revenue (DOR)
17:40:48 Ron Brost, doctor, Stillwater Laboratories
17:41:59 Erin Ducharme, Department of Public Health and Human Services
17:42:21 Ian Folly, Department of Agriculture (MDA)
17:42:44 Stephen Zamawa, SafeMontana

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:43:24 Sen. Brown
17:44:59 Ms. Schagor, Montana Medicinals
17:46:05 Sen. Small
17:46:54 Mr. Folly, MDA
17:47:49 Sen. Small
17:48:14 Mr. Peterson, Montana Cannabis Guild
17:50:42 Sen. Small
17:50:50 Mr. Peterson

17:51:36 Sen. Small
17:52:22 Mr. Brost, Stillwater Laboratories
17:52:28 Sen. Small
17:52:53 Mr. Brost
17:53:19 Sen. Small
17:53:28 Mr. Brost
17:53:37 Sen. Cohenour
17:54:54 Ms. Schagor
17:56:14 Sen. Cohenour
17:56:26 Ms. Schagor
17:56:48 Sen. Cohenour
17:57:24 Mr. Broughton, Starrbuds
17:58:25 Sen. Cohenour
17:59:14 Ms. Schagor
18:00:20 Sen. Cohenour
18:00:40 Ms. Schagor
18:00:57 Sen. Jacobson
18:02:12 Ms. Turner, Alternative Releaf
18:03:18 Sen. Jacobson
18:03:46 Ms. Turner
18:04:40 Sen. Jacobson
18:05:19 Rep. Hopkins
18:05:26 Sen. Jacobson
18:05:56 Rep. Hopkins
18:06:44 Sen. Jacobson
18:07:21 Rep. Hopkins
18:07:58 Sen. Jacobson
18:08:10 Sen. Friedel
18:08:26 Rep. Hopkins
18:08:36 Sen. Friedel
18:08:44 Rep. Hopkins
18:09:42 Sen. Friedel
18:09:57 Rep. Hopkins
18:10:13 Chair Ellsworth
18:10:41 Rep. Hopkins
18:11:14 Sen. Jacobson
18:11:52 Rep. Hopkins
18:13:03 Sen. Cohenour
18:13:22 Rep. Hopkins
18:14:14 Chair Ellsworth
18:16:06 Mr. Smith, citizen
18:16:15 Chair Ellsworth
18:17:05 Mr. Smith
18:17:22 Chair Ellsworth
18:17:39 Mr. Smith
18:18:24 Chair Ellsworth
18:18:54 Mr. Peterson
18:19:07 Chair Ellsworth
18:19:18 Mr. Peterson
18:20:42 Chair Ellsworth

18:20:48 Mr. Peterson
18:21:08 Chair Ellsworth
18:22:43 Mr. Peterson
18:23:35 Chair Ellsworth
18:24:01 Mr. Peterson
18:26:20 Chair Ellsworth
18:26:56 Mr. Bell, DOR
18:27:25 Finn McMichael, Department of Revenue (DOR)
18:27:31 Chair Ellsworth
18:27:50 Mr. McMichael, DOR
18:29:24 Chair Ellsworth
18:29:48 Mr. McMichael
18:30:45 Chair Ellsworth
18:30:48 Mr. McMichael
18:30:56 Chair Ellsworth
18:31:08 Mr. McMichael

18:32:14 Recess
18:36:56 Reconvened

18:37:03 Chair Ellsworth
18:37:11 Mr. McMichael
18:37:25 Chair Ellsworth
18:37:38 Mr. McMichael
18:38:54 Chair Ellsworth
18:39:11 Mr. McMichael
18:39:27 Mr. Bell, DOR
18:39:35 Chair Ellsworth
18:39:47 Mr. Bell
18:39:50 Chair Ellsworth
18:41:13 Mr. Bell
18:42:25 Chair Ellsworth
18:42:38 Mr. Bell
18:43:18 Chair Ellsworth
18:43:48 Mr. Bell
18:44:11 Chair Ellsworth
18:44:47 Mr. Peterson
18:47:35 Chair Ellsworth
18:47:44 Sen. Friedel
18:48:44 Rep. Hopkins
18:49:34 Sen. Friedel
18:50:15 Rep. Hopkins

Closing by Sponsor:

18:53:44 Rep. Hopkins

18:58:14 Chair Ellsworth

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:59 P.M.

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([sms71aad.pdf](#))