

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) AGRICULTURE**

**Call to Order:** Chair Joshua Kassmier-R, on January 05, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marty Malone, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)  
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)  
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Bob Carter (D)  
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)  
Rep. Paul Green (R)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Staff Present:** Andria Hardin, Research Analyst  
Rose Harmon, Secretary  
Loran Nelson, 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 51 12/30/2022  
HB 59 12/31/2022  
HB 100 12/31/2022

Executive Action:



15:03:18            **Committee Discussion:** Introduce new committee member and staff

15:03:18            Chair Joshua Kassmier

15:03:38            Rep. Zack Wirth

15:04:18            Loren Nelson, Remote Meeting Coordinator

15:04:52            Walt Chancy, Safety and Facilities Aide, Sergeant at Arms

15:07:18            Chair Joshua Kassmier

**HEARING ON HB 59 - Extend sunset date for livestock loss board and predatory control funding**

**Opening Statement:**

15:07:56            Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 59, Extend sunset date for livestock loss board and predatory control funding.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:10:07            George Edwards, Executive Director, Livestock Loss Board, Centralized Services Division, Montana Department of Livestock (MLLB-DOL)

[EXHIBIT\(230105AGHa1\)](#)

15:13:38            Brian Simonson, Deputy Executive Officer, Centralized Services Division, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

15:15:55            Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrower's Association Montana Cattle Women, Montana Public Lands Council, Grazing District Association

15:16:29            Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:16:48            Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Grower's Association (MWGA)

[EXHIBIT\(230105AGHa2\)](#)

15:17:38            Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmer's Union (MFU)

15:18:04            Nick Gevock, Endangered Species Coalition

15:20:49 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon  
15:22:23 Charlie Booher, Montana Wildlife Federation

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:23:11 Rep. Bob Carter  
15:23:50 Brian Simonson, DOL  
15:24:17 Rep. Bob Carter  
15:24:30 Brian Simonson, DOL  
15:24:50 Rep. Bob Carter  
15:25:06 Brian Simonson, DOL  
15:25:18 Vice Chair Marty Malone  
15:25:38 George Edwards, MLLB-DOL  
15:26:01 Vice Chair Marty Malone  
15:26:16 George Edwards, MLLB-DOL  
15:26:48 Rep. Greg Kmetz  
15:27:06 Brian Simonson, DOL

**Closing Statement:**

15:27:46 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 59.

**HEARING ON HB 100 - Require livestock containment for required animal disease testing**

**Opening Statement:**

15:28:27 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 100, Require livestock containment for required animal disease testing.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:31:10 Martin Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Animal Health and Food Safety Division, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

15:31:56 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrower's Association (MSGA)

15:32:44 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:33:24 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:33:52 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:35:07 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:36:14 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:37:00 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:37:11 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:37:34 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:38:29 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:38:39 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:39:34 Rep. Casey Knudsen

15:40:17 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:41:20 Rep. Katie Sullivan

15:41:56 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:43:57 Rep. Julie Dooling

15:44:23 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:45:21 Rep. Julie Dooling  
15:45:42 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:46:25 Rep. Bob Carter  
15:47:03 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R, HD 17  
15:47:13 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:48:15 Rep. Bob Carter  
15:48:26 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:48:51 Rep. James Bergstrom  
15:49:27 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:50:00 Rep. James Bergstrom  
15:50:18 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:50:22 Rep. James Bergstrom  
15:50:47 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:51:10 Chair Joshua Kassmier  
15:51:31 Vice Chair Dave Fern  
15:52:10 Martin Zaluski, DOL  
15:52:42 Vice Chair Marty Malone  
15:53:08 Martin Zaluski, DOL

**Closing Statement:**

15:54:10 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 100.

**HEARING ON HB 51 - Generally revise indemnity provisions**

**Opening Statement:**

15:55:10 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB 51, Generally revise indemnity provisions.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:57:43 Martin Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Animal Health and Food Safety Division, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

15:59:58 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrower's Association (MSGA)

16:00:43 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmer's Union (MFU)

16:01:10 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:01:36 Charlie Booher, Montana Wildlife Federation

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:02:18 Rep. Paul Green

16:02:44 Martin Zaluski, DOL

16:03:33 Rep. Frank Smith

16:04:28 Martin Zaluski, DOL

16:05:21 Rep. Bob Carter

16:06:07 Martin Zaluski, DOL

16:06:53 Vice Chair Dave Fern

16:07:18 Martin Zaluski, DOL

16:07:34 Brian Simonson, Deputy Executive Officer, Centralized Services Division, Montana Department of Livestock

16:08:36 Chair Joshua Kassmier

16:08:55 Rep. Joe Read-R, HD 93

**Closing Statement:**

16:09:14

Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, closed the hearing on HB 51.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:13:05

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Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230105AGHaad\)](#)