

MINUTES
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (H) FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross Fitzgerald-R, on January 05, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Ross Fitzgerald, Chair (R)
Rep. Tom France, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Denley Loge (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)
Rep. Mallerie Stromswold (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Staff Present: Toni Henneman, Research Analyst
LJ Jennings, Secretary
Rolf Johnson, 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 42 12/28/2022
HB 74 12/28/2022
HB 99 12/28/2022
HB 133 12/28/2022

Executive Action:

HB 162 DO PASS

15:03:11 **Committee Discussion:** Reminders, Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed position of the Chair and Safety Briefing.

15:03:12 Chair Ross Fitzgerald

15:04:28 Chair Ross Fitzgerald left the meeting.

15:04:30 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:04:32 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:04:57 Trent Johnson, Sergeant at Arms

15:07:29 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:07:36 Rep. Paul Fielder

15:07:50 Trent Johnson, Sergeant at Arms

15:08:30 Rep. Paul Fielder

15:08:31 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:08:32 Rep. Paul Fielder

15:08:58 Trent Johnson, Sergeant at Arms

15:09:30 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

HEARING ON HB 99 - Eliminate reference to non-resident temporary snowmobile permit

Opening Statement:

15:10:36 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 99, Eliminate reference to non-resident temporary snowmobile permit.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230105FIHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:11:55 Hope Stockwell, Administrator of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(230105FIHa2\)](#)

15:13:39 Margaret Morgan, Montana Snowmobilers Association

15:14:58 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:16:02 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 99.

Discussion:

15:16:03 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

**HEARING ON HB 133 - Allow nonresident college students to purchase FWP licenses
online**

Opening Statement:

15:17:05 Rep. Russel Miner (R), HD 19, opened the hearing on HB 133, Allow
nonresident college students to purchase FWP licenses online.

Discussion:

15:17:05 Rep. Russel Miner-R

Proponent Testimony:

15:17:51 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks,
(FWP)

15:18:40 Ethan Hanley, Associated Students of University of Montana, (ASUM)

15:19:20 Lorelei Michael-Owens, Associated Students of Montana State University,
(ASMSU)

15:20:08 Margaret Bell, Montana Associated Students

15:20:43 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

15:21:19 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:21:59 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:22:01 Rep. Neil Duram

15:22:07 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:22:13 Rep. Neil Duram

15:22:23 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:23:08 Rep. Neil Duram

15:23:10 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:23:14 Rep. Neil Duram

15:23:20 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:23:30 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:23:34 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:24:03 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:24:35 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:24:36 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:24:46 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:24:53 Rep. Marilyn Marler
15:24:57 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
15:25:00 Rep. Paul Fielder
15:25:05 Emily Cooper, FWP
15:25:10 Rep. Paul Fielder
15:25:20 Emily Cooper, FWP
15:25:44 Rep. Paul Fielder
15:25:45 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
15:25:46 Rep. Paul Fielder
15:26:16 Emily Cooper, FWP
15:26:28 Rep. Paul Fielder
15:26:30 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

Closing Statement:

15:26:38 Rep. Russel Miner (R), HD 19, closed the hearing on HB 133.

Discussion:

15:26:42 Rep. Russel Miner-R

HEARING ON HB 42 - Revise laws related to FWP employee firearm use

Opening Statement:

15:28:55 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 42, Revise laws related to FWP employee firearm use.

Discussion:

15:27:19 Vice Chair France assumed position of the Chair.

15:28:55 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

Proponent Testimony:

15:31:01 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Staff, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(230105FIHa3\)](#)

15:32:15 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:32:59 Vice Chair Tom France

15:33:00 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:33:07 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:33:10 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:33:25 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:34:01 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:34:07 Vice Chair Tom France

15:34:10 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:34:21 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:34:55 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:34:56 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:35:12 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:35:25 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:35:27 Vice Chair Tom France

15:35:41 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:36:06 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:36:24 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:36:26 Vice Chair Tom France
15:36:30 Rep. Marilyn Marler
15:36:32 Rep. Brandon Ler
15:36:42 Rep. Marilyn Marler
15:37:00 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:37:05 Vice Chair Tom France
15:37:06 Rep. Neil Duram
15:37:12 Vice Chair Tom France
15:37:14 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:37:15 Rep. Neil Duram
15:37:33 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:37:40 Vice Chair Tom France
15:38:07 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:38:27 Vice Chair Tom France

Closing Statement:

15:38:33 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 42.

Discussion:

15:38:38 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

15:42:35 **Recessed**

15:58:15 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 74 - Eliminate requirement to release pheasants from Upland Game
Bird Program**

Opening Statement:

15:58:38 Chair Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 74, Eliminate requirement to release pheasants from Upland Game Bird Program.

Discussion:

15:42:19 Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed position of the Chair.

15:55:32 Representative Fitzpatrick returned

15:58:38 Chair Ross Fitzgerald

Proponent Testimony:

16:02:11 Ken McDonald, Division Administrator of Wildlife, Wildlife at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(230105FIHa4\)](#)

16:07:29 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation

16:08:41 Katjana Stutzer, Chapter of Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:10:39 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

16:10:42 Rep. Neil Duram

16:10:50 Ken McDonald, FWP

16:10:57 Rep. Neil Duram

16:11:15 Ken McDonald, FWP

16:11:57 Rep. Neil Duram

16:12:00 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

16:12:01 Rep. Neil Duram

16:12:20 Ken McDonald, FWP

16:13:13 Rep. Neil Duram
16:13:14 Rep. Neil Duram
16:13:40 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:13:50 Rep. Neil Duram
16:13:59 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:14:16 Rep. Neil Duram
16:14:18 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:14:21 Rep. Gary Parry
16:14:43 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:15:03 Rep. Gary Parry
16:15:04 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:15:05 Rep. Gary Parry
16:15:18 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:15:40 Rep. Gary Parry
16:15:43 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:15:47 Rep. Denley Loge
16:16:17 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:16:40 Rep. Denley Loge
16:16:46 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:16:51 Rep. Paul Fielder
16:17:21 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:17:50 Rep. Paul Fielder
16:17:51 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:17:55 Rep. Paul Fielder

16:18:55 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:20:26 Rep. Paul Fielder
16:20:31 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:20:43 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:20:48 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:21:15 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:21:43 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:22:02 Ken McDonald, FWP
16:22:30 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

Closing Statement:

16:22:37 Chair Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 74.

Discussion:

16:22:37 Chair Ross Fitzgerald

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 162 - Revise electronic tag law

16:24:42 **Motion:** Rep. Denise Baum moved that **HB 162 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:23:52 Chair Fitzgerald assumed position of the Chair.

16:25:15 Chair Ross Fitzgerald

16:25:19 Rep. Denley Loge

16:25:36 Chair Ross Fitzgerald

11:23:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:28:30

LJ Jennings, Secretary

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