

MINUTES
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (H) BUSINESS AND LABOR

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Edward Buttrey-R, on January 10, 2023 at 8:32 AM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Denley Loge (R)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (D)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)

Staff Present: Jolanda Songer, Secretary
Jameson Walker, Research Analyst

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 48 01/04/2023
HB 157 01/05/2023
HB 31 01/04/2023
HB 49 01/05/2023
HB 155 01/05/2023

Executive Action:

HB 123 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 144 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 145 DO PASS
HB 166 DO PASS AS AMENDED

08:33:36

Committee Discussion:

17:52:47 Rep. Katie Sullivan left the meeting.

10:16:16

HEARING ON HB 155 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol licenses

Opening Statement:

08:34:05 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 155, Generally revise laws related to alcohol licenses.

Proponent Testimony:

08:36:39 Becky Schlauch, Dept. of Revenue - ABCD

08:37:05 Shauna Helfert, Gaming Industry Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:40:31 Rep. James Bergstrom

08:40:37 Shauna. Helfert

08:41:10 Rep. James Bergstrom

08:41:20 Shauna Helfert

08:41:33 Rep. Derek Harvey

08:41:59 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

08:42:18 Rep. Bob Carter

08:43:07 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

08:43:11 Rep. Edward Buttrey

08:43:26 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

08:43:34 Rep. Edward Buttrey

08:43:38 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

Closing Statement:

08:43:59 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 155.

HEARING ON HB 157 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol

Opening Statement:

08:44:23 Rep. Wayne Rusk (R), HD 88, opened the hearing on HB 157, Generally revise laws related to alcohol.

Proponent Testimony:

08:45:30 Becky Schlauch, Dept. of Revenue - ABCD

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:47:51 Rep. Edward Buttrey

08:48:08 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

Closing Statement:

08:48:45 Rep. Wayne Rusk (R), HD 88, closed the hearing on HB 157.

HEARING ON HB 31 - Generally revise laws related to academic brewers license

Opening Statement:

08:49:22 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 31,
Generally revise laws related to academic brewers license.

Proponent Testimony:

08:50:31 Dacia English, Dept. of Revenue - ABCD
08:51:20 Janelle Booth, MSU
08:52:10 Jennifer Hensley, MT Distillers Guild
08:52:44 Hannah Turner, MSU
08:54:16 Erik Somerfeld, MT Barley Farmers
08:57:11 Lorelei Michael-Owens, MSU
08:58:13 Matt Leow, MT Brewers Association
08:59:24 Kristi Blazer, MT Beer and Wine Distributors assoc

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:37:56 Rep. Galloway has left
09:00:35 Rep. Ron Marshall
09:01:19 Ms. Turner
09:02:37 Rep. Ron Marshall
09:03:21 Ms. Turner
09:04:30 Rep. Edward Buttrey

09:04:36 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

09:05:01 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:05:28 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

09:05:54 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:06:08 Rep. Katie Zolnikov

09:06:37 Dacia English

09:06:52 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

09:08:59 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

09:09:01 Matt Leow

09:09:10 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:09:47 Matt Leow

09:10:48 Rep. Edward Buttrey

09:11:06 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

Closing Statement:

09:11:22 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 31.

HEARING ON HB 48 - Generally revise alcohol laws, including storage depots

Opening Statement:

09:12:13 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 48, Generally revise alcohol laws, including storage depots.

Proponent Testimony:

09:13:27 Dacia English, Dept. of Revenue - ABCD

09:14:34 Jennifer Hensley, MT Distillers Guild

09:16:06 Matt Leow, MT Brewers Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:17:47 Becky Schlauch

09:18:12 Rep. Edward Buttrey

09:18:22 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

Closing Statement:

09:18:31 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 48.

HEARING ON HB 49 - Revising alcoholic beverage laws relating to wholesalers and distributors

Opening Statement:

09:19:09 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 49, Revising alcoholic beverage laws relating to wholesalers and distributors.

Proponent Testimony:

09:20:20 Becky Schlauch, ABCD

Opponent Testimony:

09:21:08 Kristi Blazer, MT Beer and Wine Distributors Association

09:28:04 Matt Leow, MT Brewers Association

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:28:56 Rep. Steve Gist

09:29:12 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

09:30:13 Rep. Steve Gist

09:30:40 Kristi Blazer

09:32:01 Rep. Denley Loge

09:32:28 Kristi Blazer

09:33:26 Rep. Derek Harvey

09:34:03 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

09:34:37 Rep. Steven Galloway

09:34:59 Kristi Blazer

09:35:35 Rep. Steven Galloway

09:35:48 Becky Schlauch Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

Closing Statement:

09:36:03 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 49.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 123 - Revise alcohol licenses to prohibit prospecting of new licenses

10:06:58 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 123 DO PASS.**

10:07:14 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 123 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

09:37:55 Recessed

10:06:03 Reconvened

10:07:38 Jameson Walker

10:08:29 Rep. Edward Buttrey

10:07:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:09:18 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 123 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

10:09:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 144 - Generally revise laws related to competitive bidding requirements

10:09:45 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 144 DO PASS.**

10:10:39 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 144 BE AMENDED.**

10:10:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:11:37 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 144 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

10:11:37 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 145 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol license applications

10:12:05 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 145 DO PASS.**

10:12:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 166 - Generally revise laws related to seasonal alcohol licenses

10:13:01 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 166 DO PASS.**

10:13:31 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 166 BE AMENDED.**

10:13:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:14:43 **Motion:** Rep. Fred Anderson moved that **HB 166 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

08:33:36

10:16:16

10:14:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:18:51

Jolanda Songer, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230110BUHbad\)](#)