

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R, on January 10, 2023 at 3:00 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. Edward Butcher (R)
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)

Members Excused: Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Staff Present: Toni Henneman, Research Analyst
LJ Jennings, Secretary
Rolf Johnson, Attorney

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 131 01/05/2023

HB 146 01/05/2023

Executive Action:

HB 133 DO PASS
HB 99 DO PASS

15:02:05

Committee Discussion:

15:02:05 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:02:06 Rep. Tom France

15:03:02 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:35:28 Recessed

15:59:06 Reconvened

HEARING ON HB 146 - Create landowner preference to hunt deer and antelope

Opening Statement:

15:04:24 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 146,
Create landowner preference to hunt deer and antelope.

Discussion:

15:04:39 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

Proponent Testimony:

15:05:39 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Department of Fish Wildlife and
Parks (FWP)

15:06:55 Dillon Davidson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MBF), Montana Stock
Growers Association

15:07:53 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:08:07 Scott Boulanger, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association

Opponent Testimony:

15:09:05 Dale Tribby, Montana Sportsman Alliance

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:11:09 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:11:15 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:11:47 Rep. Neil Duram

15:11:52 Rep. Neil Duram

15:12:09 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:12:22 Rep. Neil Duram

15:12:35 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:12:59 Rep. Neil Duram

15:13:11 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:13:18 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:13:21 Rep. Gary Parry

15:13:37 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:14:08 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:14:41 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:15:26 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:15:43 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:16:33 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:16:38 Rep. Russel Miner

15:17:02 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:17:12 Rep. Gary Parry

15:17:22 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:17:28 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

Closing Statement:

15:17:36 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 146.

Discussion:

15:17:40 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

HEARING ON HB 131 - Remove 24 hour wait requirement for wolf license

Opening Statement:

15:18:05 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 131, Remove 24 hour wait requirement for wolf license.

Discussion:

15:18:35 Rep. Caleb Hinkle-R

Proponent Testimony:

15:19:30 Ken McDonald, Wildlife Division Administrator, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:21:08 Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association, (MWGA)

15:22:25 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association, (MTA)

15:22:44 Scott Boulenger, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, (MOGA)

15:23:02 Michael McKenrick, Self

Opponent Testimony:

15:23:50 Mark Cook, Wolves of the Rockies, (WOTR)

[EXHIBIT\(230110FIHa1\)](#)

15:26:25 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands, (TFMPL)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:27:51 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:28:22 Ken McDonald, FWP
15:28:48 Rep. Neil Duram
15:29:09 Ken McDonald, FWP
15:30:24 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
15:31:17 Marc Cooke, WOTR
15:32:53 Rep. Paul Fielder
15:33:09 Ken McDonald, FWP

Closing Statement:

15:34:08 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, closed the hearing on HB 131.

Discussion:

15:34:08 Rep. Caleb Hinkle-R

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 133 - Allow nonresident college students to purchase FWP licenses online

15:59:58 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 133 DO PASS.**

15:59:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

16:01:07 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 99 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:02:05

15:35:28 Recessed

15:59:06 Reconvened

16:01:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:03:48

LJ Jennings, Secretary

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