

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Edward Buttrey-R, on January 11, 2023 at 8:31 AM, in Room 172

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)  
Rep. Derek Harvey, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe, Vice Chair (R)  
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 (R)  
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)  
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

**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 70 01/05/2023  
HB 68 01/05/2023  
HB 69 01/05/2023  
HB 72 01/05/2023  
HB 164 01/05/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 68 - Generally revise laws related to beer and wine licenses**

**Opening Statement:**

08:33:07 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 68, Generally revise laws related to beer and wine licenses.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:33:56 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

08:35:10 Rep. Nelly Nicol left the meeting.

08:35:37 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

08:38:30 Brad Griffin, President, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA)

08:38:53 Matt Leow, Executive Director, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:40:08 Rep. Steven Galloway

08:40:20 Jameson Walker, Legislative Service Division (LSD)

**Closing Statement:**

08:40:40 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 68.

**HEARING ON HB 72 - Revise alcohol licenses related to restaurant beer and wine licenses**

**Opening Statement:**

08:41:21 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 72, Revise alcohol licenses related to restaurant beer and wine licenses.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:42:43 Dacia English, Outreach Coordinator, Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

08:45:05 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

08:48:16 Shauna Helfert, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)

08:48:39 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:49:05 Rep. Steve Gist

08:49:33 John Iverson, MTA

08:50:07 Rep. Steven Galloway

08:50:20 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

08:50:55 Rep. Steven Galloway

08:51:03 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

08:51:14 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

08:51:39 John Iverson, MTA

08:52:17 Rep. Denley Loge

08:52:41 John Iverson, MTA

08:53:51 Rep. James Bergstrom

08:54:12 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

08:54:41 Rep. James Bergstrom

08:55:53 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**HEARING ON HB 164 - Revise alcohol laws relating to catering endorsements**

**Opening Statement:**

08:57:18 Vice Chair Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, opened the hearing on HB 164, Revise alcohol laws relating to catering endorsements.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:57:48 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

08:59:29 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA)

09:00:52 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

09:02:36 Shauna Helfert, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)

09:02:54 Matt Leow, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:03:21 Rep. Steve Gunderson

09:04:08 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:04:15 Rep. Steve Gunderson

09:04:24 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:04:58 Rep. Steve Gunderson  
09:05:03 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:05:21 Rep. Steve Gist  
09:05:38 Chair Edward Buttrey

**Closing Statement:**

09:06:31 Vice Chair Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, closed the hearing on HB 164.

**HEARING ON HB 69 - Generally revise laws related to agency liquor stores**

**Opening Statement:**

09:07:20 Rep. Terry Falk (R), HD 8, opened the hearing on HB 69, Generally revise laws related to agency liquor stores.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:08:04 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)  
09:09:32 Melissa Shannon, Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana (LSOAMT)  
09:09:56 Shauna Helfert, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)  
09:13:55 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)  
09:14:22 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:14:49 Rep. Steven Galloway  
09:15:20 Shauna Helfert, GIA  
09:15:37 Rep. Steven Galloway

09:16:02 Shauna Helfert, GIA  
09:16:42 Rep. Bob Carter  
09:17:06 Becky Schauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:17:37 Rep. Greg Oblander  
09:18:08 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:19:19 Rep. Ron Marshall  
09:19:44 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:20:48 Rep. Steven Galloway  
09:21:24 Melissa Shannon, LSOAMT  
09:22:03 Rep. Steven Galloway  
09:22:24 Melissa Shannon, LSOAMT  
09:22:31 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

**Closing Statement:**

09:23:28 Rep. Terry Falk (R), HD 8, closed the hearing on HB 69.

**HEARING ON HB 70 - Revise alcohol laws pertaining to renewal of licenses**

**Opening Statement:**

09:31:57 Rep. Terry Falk (R), HD 8, opened the hearing on HB 70, Revise alcohol laws pertaining to renewal of licenses.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:32:31 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:33:55 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
09:34:27 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:35:23 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
09:35:52 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:36:19 Rep. Ron Marshall  
09:36:34 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:36:52 Rep. Steven Galloway  
09:37:16 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:37:34 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:38:00 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD  
09:38:14 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:38:27 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

**Closing Statement:**

09:39:01 Rep. Terry Falk (R), HD 8, closed the hearing on HB 70.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 09:41:11

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Jolanda Songer, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230111BUHaad\)](#)