

**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 19, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 172

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Ross Fitzgerald, Chair (R)  
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. 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. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
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 243 01/16/2023

Executive Action:

HB 42 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 217 DO PASS AS AMENDED

15:04:18 Rep. France has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 243 - Revise hunter education laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:05:07 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HB 243, Revise hunter education laws.

**Discussion:**

15:05:07 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:11:02 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, (MOGA)

15:13:20 Marcus Strange, Montana Citizens Elk Management Coalition and Montana Wildlife Federation, (MCEMC, MWF)

15:14:16 Marlon Clapham, Montana Bowhunters Association, (MBA)

15:18:16 Jeremy Harwood, Montana Bowhunters Association, (MBA)

15:20:07 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, (MCBCHA)

15:22:19 Stephen LePage, Montana Bowhunters Association, (MBA)

15:23:26 Stephanie Prater, Self

15:24:27 Ken Schultz, Self

15:25:37 Martin Maddalena, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230119FIHa1\)](#)

15:27:23 Rep. Jonathan Karlen joined the meeting.

15:27:47 Alexandria Stokman, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230119FIHa2\)](#)

15:30:13 Rod Bullis, Helena Hunters and Anglers, (HHA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:31:45 Hank Worsech, Director, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:36:31 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:36:35 Rep. Denley Loge

15:36:37 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:36:43 Rep. Denley Loge

15:37:05 Hank Worsech, FWP

15:37:24 Rep. Denley Loge

15:37:26 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:37:29 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:37:32 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:37:34 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:37:46 Hank Worsech, FWP

15:38:08 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:38:09 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:38:10 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:38:12 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:38:32 Hank Worsceh, FWP

15:38:49 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:38:51 Rep. Neil Duram

15:38:56 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:38:58	Rep. Neil Duram
15:39:11	Hank Worsech, FWP
15:39:22	Rep. Neil Duram
15:39:23	Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
15:39:24	Rep. Neil Duram
15:39:33	Hank Worsech, FWP
15:39:43	Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
15:39:44	Rep. Neil Duram
15:40:04	Hank Worsech, FWP
15:40:32	Rep. Neil Duram
15:40:33	Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
15:40:34	Rep. Neil Duram
15:41:19	Hank Worsech, FWP
15:41:35	Rep. Neil Duram
15:41:36	Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
15:41:37	Rep. Neil Duram
15:42:04	Hank Worsech, FWP
15:42:13	Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
15:42:18	Rep. Paul Fielder
15:42:39	Hank Worsech, FWP
15:42:53	Rep. Paul Fielder
15:42:54	Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
15:43:03	Rep. Edward Butcher
15:43:49	Hank Worsech, FWP

15:44:03 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:44:10 Rep. Tanner Smith

15:44:31 Hank Worsech, FWP

15:45:01 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:45:05 Rep. Denise Baum

15:45:10 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:45:16 Rep. Denise Baum

15:45:34 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D

[EXHIBIT\(230119FIHa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230119FIHa4\)](#)

15:48:14 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:48:17 Rep. Denise Baum

15:48:19 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:48:28 Rep. Denise Baum

15:49:04 Hank Worsech, FWP

15:49:38 Rep. Denise Baum

15:49:41 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:49:42 Rep. Denise Baum

15:50:07 Hank Worsech, FWP

15:50:21 Rep. Denise Baum

15:50:28 Hank Worsech, FWP

15:51:05 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:51:08 Rep. Paul Fielder

15:51:11 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:51:14 Rep. Paul Fielder  
15:51:23 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:51:31 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:51:32 Rep. Bob Phalen  
15:51:47 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:52:00 Rep. Bob Phalen  
15:52:10 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:52:26 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:52:28 Rep. Bob Phalen  
15:52:34 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:52:39 Rep. Tom France joined the meeting.  
15:52:45 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:53:20 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:53:40 Rep. Tom France  
15:53:41 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:53:53 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:54:04 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:54:08 Rep. Tom France  
15:54:17 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:54:21 Rep. Neil Duram  
15:54:23 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:54:25 Rep. Neil Duram  
15:54:49 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D  
15:54:53 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:54:54 Rep. Neil Duram  
15:55:05 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf left the meeting.  
15:55:22 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D  
15:55:39 Rep. Neil Duram  
15:55:41 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:55:49 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:55:56 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:56:02 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:56:40 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:57:20 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:57:21 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:57:46 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:58:12 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:58:13 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
15:58:14 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:58:40 Hank Worsech, FWP  
15:59:06 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:04:07 Recessed  
16:23:17 Reconvened

**Closing Statement:**

15:59:25 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, closed the hearing on HB 243.

**Discussion:**

15:59:25 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 42 - Revise laws related to FWP employee firearm use**

- 16:24:02        **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 42 DO PASS.**
- 16:24:15        **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 42 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 16:24:31        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:24:37        Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
- 16:27:22        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:27:40        Rep. Tom France joined the meeting.
- 16:28:03        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:28:04        Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
- 16:28:30        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:28:38        Rep. Tom France
- 16:29:00        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:29:01        Debra O'Neill, Administrative Liaison, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, FWP
- 16:29:45        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:29:46        Rep. Neil Duram
- 16:30:02        Debra O'Neill, FWP
- 16:30:17        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:30:20        Debra O'Neill, FWP
- 16:30:33        Ron Howell, Chief of Enforcement, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, FWP
- 16:32:32        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:32:49        Rep. Tom France joined the meeting.
- 16:33:06        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:33:07        Toni Henneman
- 16:33:24        Rep. Tom France
- 16:33:26        Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
- 16:24:15        **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 16:34:08        **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 42 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:34:18 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:34:23 Rep. Neil Duram  
16:34:41 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:34:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Ler, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 217 - Increase fees for migratory bird licenses**

16:35:38 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 217 DO PASS.**  
16:36:05 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 217 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:36:17 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:36:31 Rep. Gary Parry  
16:36:58 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:37:16 LJ Jennings  
16:38:20 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:36:05 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no.  
Rep. Running Wolf, By Proxy  
16:40:18 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 217 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:40:27 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:40:30 Rep. Gary Parry  
16:40:38 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:40:43 Rep. Gary Parry  
16:40:54 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:41:09 Rep. Gary Parry  
16:41:23 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald  
16:41:41 Rep. Marilyn Marler  
16:41:49 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:04:18 Rep. France has arrived

16:40:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:42:42

---

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230119FIHaad\)](#)