

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Steve Gunderson-R, on January 30, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 172

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)  
Rep. Steve Gist, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Russel Miner (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Staff Present:** LJ Jennings, Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst  
John Olson, 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 342 01/27/2023

HB 347 01/27/2023

Executive Action:

HB 289 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 342 DO PASS

HB 347 DO PASS

**HEARING ON HB 342 - Allow certain emergency agencies copies of reports**

**Opening Statement:**

15:02:59 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 342, Allow certain emergency agencies copies of reports.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:05:32 Rep. Steve Gunderson

15:05:38 Rep. Steve Gist

15:05:48 Rep. Denley Loge-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:06:53 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 342.

**HEARING ON HB 347 - Define administrative deficiencies for certain mining operations**

**Opening Statement:**

15:08:01 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 347, Define administrative deficiencies for certain mining operations.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:10:47 Matt Vincent, Executive Director, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

15:12:48 Mark Thompson, Vice President, Environmental Affairs and Media Pass President, Montana Mining Association (EA, MMA)

15:14:39 Steve Wade, Montana's Contractors Association (MCA)

15:16:55 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:18:51 Dan Walsh, Mining Bureau Chief, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:19:19 Rep. Steve Gunderson

15:19:20 Rep. Jill Cohenour

15:19:25 Dan Walsh, DEQ

15:23:17 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

15:26:30 Rep. Gary Parry

**Closing Statement:**

15:28:20 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 347.

15:31:23 **Recessed**

15:46:13 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 289 - Revise notification of owner's costs for oil/gas well**

15:47:33 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 289 DO PASS.**

15:47:59 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 289 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:48:18 Joe Kolman

15:49:39 Rep. Steve Gunderson

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

15:50:27 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 289 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

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

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 342 - Allow certain emergency agencies copies of reports**

15:51:31        **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 342 DO PASS.**

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

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 347 - Define administrative deficiencies for certain mining operations**

15:52:17        **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gist moved that **HB 347 DO PASS.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:53:29

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LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230130NAHaad\)](#)