

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Amy Regier-R, on February 02, 2023 at 8:00 AM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)
Rep. Zooey Zephyr (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Laura Smith (D)

Staff Present: Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary
Rachel Weiss, 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 296 01/27/2023

HB 340 01/30/2023

Executive Action:

HB 303 DO PASS
HB 326 DO PASS

HEARING ON HB 296 - Revising laws relating to real estate transaction disclosures

Opening Statement:

08:01:32 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 296, Revising laws relating to real estate transaction disclosures.

Proponent Testimony:

08:03:17 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors, (MAR)
08:03:24 Ed Buttrey, HD 21
08:04:59 Mike Nugent, Self
08:07:08 Bill Gowen, Montana Land Title Association, (MLTA)
08:08:22 Jaymie Bowditch, Montana Association of Realtors, (MAR)

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:09:49 Amy Steinmentz, Department of Environmental Quality

Opponent Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:02:21 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway has arrived
08:02:40 Rep. Etchart has arrived
08:02:45 Rep. Deming has arrived
08:03:06 Rep. France has arrived
08:03:48 Rep. Carlson has arrived
08:03:52 Rep. Smith has arrived
08:05:58 Rep. Duram has left
08:10:03 Rep. Hinkle has left

08:10:36 Rep. Casey Knudsen
08:10:40 Sam Sill (MAR)
08:11:21 Rep. Duram has arrived
08:11:51 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway
08:12:19 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe-R
08:15:10 Rep. Zooey Zephyr
08:16:27 Mike Nugent
08:17:07 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle joined the meeting.
08:17:13 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
08:19:14 Mike Nugent
08:21:45 Jaymie Bowditch (MAR)
08:25:13 Rep. Greg Kmetz
08:25:45 Jaymie Bowditch (MAR)
08:26:26 Rep. Neil Duram
08:27:03 Jaymie Bowditch, (MAR)
08:28:20 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway
08:29:45 Jaymie Bowditch (MAR)
08:30:51 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
08:31:51 Jaymie Bowditch (MAR)

Closing Statement:

08:33:13 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 296.

HEARING ON HB 340 - Require child support cooperation for food stamp eligibility

Opening Statement:

08:35:31 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 340, Require child support cooperation for food stamp eligibility.

Proponent Testimony:

08:36:24 Rep. Duram has left
08:38:20 Rep. Knudsen has left
08:40:09 Scott Centorino, Opportunities Solutions Project
08:45:25 Rep. Brandon Ler left the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

08:46:01 Melody Cunningham, Montana Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
08:48:13 Ren Greeney, Montana Food Bank
08:48:41 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.
08:51:18 Jackie Semmens, Montana Budget and Policy Center
08:55:20 Jamie Quinn, Flathead Food Bank
08:58:46 Tirza Asbell, Montana Women Vote
09:00:58 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle left the meeting.
09:01:41 Atty Moriarty, Montana American Academy of Pediatrics

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:03:09 Jessie Counts, Department of Health and Human Services
09:04:16 Christy Twardoski, Department of Health and Human Services

Questions from Committee:

09:04:40 Rep. Donavon Hawk
09:05:51 Rep. Jane Gillette-R
09:08:02 Rep. Donavon Hawk
09:08:04 Rep. Laura Smith
09:08:45 Jessie Counts, DPHHS

09:09:22 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
09:10:04 Christy Twadoski, DPHHS
09:11:41 Rep. Jennifer Carlson
09:12:09 Rep. Jane Gillette-R
09:12:59 Rep. SJ Howell
09:13:14 Jessie Counts, DPHHS
09:13:40 Rep. Mitchell has left
09:15:10 Christy Twadoski, DPHHS
09:16:46 Rep. Laurie Bishop
09:17:10 Rep. Braxton Mitchell joined the meeting.
09:17:15 Jackie Semmens, MBPC
09:18:30 Rep. Laurie Bishop
09:18:50 Rep. Jane Gillette-R
09:20:55 Jessie Counts, DPHHS
09:23:03 Rep. Laura Smith
09:23:36 Christy Twadoski,DPHHS
09:24:51 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
09:25:00 Scott Centorino
09:30:54 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway
09:31:12 Christy Twadoski, DPHHS
09:32:23 Rep. Neil Duram joined the meeting.
09:32:27 Rep. Neil Duram
09:33:05 Jessie Counts, DPHHS
09:33:48 Rep. Jodee Etchart left the meeting.

09:35:22 Rep. Tom France
09:35:40 Jessie Counts, DPHHS
09:36:37 Rep. Tom France
09:37:00 Jamie Quinn
09:39:26 Rep. Casey Knudsen joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

09:40:58 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, closed the hearing on HB 340.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 303 - Implement Medical Ethics and Diversity Act

10:07:18 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 303 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

09:45:22 Recessed
10:07:01 Reconvened
10:07:50 Rep. Zoey Zephyr
10:07:54 Rep. Jodee Etchart joined the meeting.
10:08:56 Rep. Braxton Mitchell left the meeting.
10:11:08 Rep. Donavon Hawk
10:11:32 Rep. Neil Duram
10:13:12 Rep. Tom France
10:13:49 Rep. SJ Howell
10:16:10 Rep. Laura Smith
10:07:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 326 - Revise laws relating to the appointment of the judicial standards commission

10:20:27 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 326 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:20:35 Rachel Weiss

10:21:54 Rep. Laurie Bishop

10:22:53 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

10:24:05 Rep. SJ Howell

10:25:11 Rep. Tom France

10:20:27 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France,
Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:30:16

Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230202JUHaad\)](#)