

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R, on February 07, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Marty Malone, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Andria Hardin, Research Analyst
Rose Harmon, Secretary
Loran Nelson, 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 158 02/02/2023

HB 159 02/02/2023

Executive Action:

HB 276 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 350 TO TABLE

09:17:50 Rep. Mitchell has left

15:02:24 Vice Chair Malone takes over as Chair.

HEARING ON HB 158 - Revise custom exempt facilities as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act

Opening Statement:

15:02:33 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 158, Revise custom exempt facilities as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act.

Proponent Testimony:

15:03:18 Martin Zaluski, State Veterinarian, Animal Health and Food Safety Division, Department of Livestock (DOL)

15:04:16 Rep. Tony Brockman left the meeting.

15:06:16 Josh Senecal, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:07:10 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

15:07:54 Makae Nack, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:09:38 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:10:02 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:10:47 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:11:07 Martin Zaluski, DOL

15:11:52 Rep. Greg Kmetz

Closing Statement:

15:12:35 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 158.

HEARING ON HB 159 - Repeal Livestock Crimestoppers Act

Opening Statement:

15:12:58 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 159, Repeal Livestock Crimestoppers Act.

Proponent Testimony:

15:13:27 Jay Bodner, Brands Administrator, Brands Enforcement Division, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

15:16:38 Cameron Wolenez, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:18:29 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 159.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 276 - Establish a farm to food bank grant program

15:50:06 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 276 DO PASS.**

15:50:25 **Motion:** Rep. Dave Fern moved that **HB 276 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:18:34 Rep. Kassmier resumes his place as Chair

15:19:37
15:32:37 Recessed
15:49:58 Reconvened
15:50:51 Andria Hardin
15:50:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
15:52:15 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 276 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
Discussion:
15:52:38 Rep. Dave Fern
15:53:27 Rep. Marty Malone
15:54:02 Rep. Bob Carter
15:52:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 350 - Generally revise country of origin labeling

15:55:02 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 350 DO PASS.**
Discussion:
15:55:16 Rep. Katie Sullivan
15:56:17 Rep. Casey Knudsen
15:57:20 Rep. Frank Smith
15:58:02 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
15:58:51 Rep. Zack Wirth
15:55:02 **Vote:** Motion failed 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Bergstrom, Rep. Carter, Rep. Fern, Rep. Green, Rep. Romano, Rep. Smith, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Weatherwax, voting yes.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy
16:01:07 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 350 TO TABLE.**
Discussion:
09:17:50 Rep. Mitchell has left
15:02:24 Vice Chair Malone takes over as Chair.
16:01:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Smith, voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 09:52:31

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230207AGHaad\)](#)