

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Derek Harvey-D, on February 09, 2023 at 8:32 AM, in Room 172

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
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 386 02/06/2023  
HB 389 02/06/2023

Executive Action:

HB 353 DO PASS

HB 371 DO PASS

**HEARING ON HB 389 - Create a mini-COBRA law for small employer health insurance plans**

**Opening Statement:**

08:34:45 Rep. Mark Thane (D), HD 99, opened the hearing on HB 389, Create a mini-COBRA law for small employer health insurance plans.

**Discussion:**

08:36:05 Rep. Steve Gunderson left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:40:19 Melissa Shannon, Pacific Source Health Plans

08:40:58 Jennifer Hensley, Glacier Distillery Company and Fidelity Diagnostics Laboratory

08:41:50 Emily Coyle, Montana Association of Health Care Purchasers (MAHCP)

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:43:56 Karen Smith, Chief Advocacy Officer, Montana Credit Unions (MCUN)

08:45:22 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

08:46:11 Duane Williams, Executive Director, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)

08:47:02 Greg Roadifer, President, Associated Employers

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:48:57 Kali Wicks, Manager, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana, Government Relations (BCBSMT)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:49:20 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

08:49:59 Dave Galt, MCC

08:50:23 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

08:50:50 Dave Galt, MCC

08:51:28 Vice Chair Derek Harvey  
08:51:50 Dave Galt, MCC  
08:52:07 Rep. Denley Loge  
08:52:11 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.  
08:52:46 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT  
08:53:00 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
08:53:27 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
08:55:00 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
08:55:15 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
08:55:46 Rep. Steven Galloway  
08:56:12 Karen Smith  
08:56:17 Rep. Steven Galloway  
08:56:46 Karen Smith  
08:57:24 Rep. Steven Galloway  
08:57:29 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT  
08:57:45 Rep. Steven Galloway  
08:58:09 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT  
08:58:39 Vice Chair Derek Harvey  
08:59:00 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
08:59:24 Rep. Greg Oblander  
08:59:49 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
09:00:45 Rep. Greg Oblander  
09:00:59 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
09:02:02 Rep. Greg Oblander

09:02:07 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
09:03:02 Rep. Bob Carter  
09:03:24 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
09:04:33 Rep. Bob Carter  
09:04:53 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
09:06:52 Rep. Bob Carter  
09:07:06 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
09:07:26 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
09:08:00 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
09:09:32 Rep. Nelly Nicol  
09:10:07 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
09:11:24 Rep. James Bergstrom  
09:11:49 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
09:12:40 Rep. James Bergstrom  
09:12:56 Vice Chair Derek Harvey  
09:14:20 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT  
09:16:07 Vice Chair Derek Harvey  
09:16:20 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT  
09:17:01 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:17:16 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT  
09:17:33 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:18:14 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT  
09:18:42 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:19:11 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT

09:19:23 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
09:20:29 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:20:42 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
09:20:46 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:20:53 Rep. Mark Thane-D  
09:21:10 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:21:43 Dave Galt, MCC  
09:21:59 Chair Edward Buttrey  
09:22:08 Dave Galt, MCC  
09:22:15 Rep. Steven Galloway  
09:22:38 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
09:23:15 Rep. Steven Galloway  
09:23:52 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
09:24:30 Rep. Steven Galloway  
09:24:44 Greg Roadifer, Associated Employers  
10:05:33 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

09:25:28 Rep. Mark Thane (D), HD 99, closed the hearing on HB 389.  
10:16:35 Rep. Gunderson has left

**HEARING ON HB 386 - Establish requirement for paid sick days**

**Opening Statement:**

09:26:45 Rep. SJ Howell (D), HD 95, opened the hearing on HB 386, Establish requirement for paid sick days.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:33:21 Heather O'Loughlin, Executive Director, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

09:36:06 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO

09:39:50 Adam Haight, Field Agent, Laborers Local 1686

09:41:02 Margaret McDonald, Big Sky 55 Plus

09:42:51 Al Ekblad, Montana Operating Engineers Local 400

09:45:39 Ella Smith, Montana Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence and Women's Foundation of Montana (MCADV and WFM)

09:47:04 Wren Greaney, Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN)

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:49:08 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

09:49:46 Ronda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:51:09 Rep. Jennifer Lynch

09:51:35 Rep. SJ Howell-D

09:53:13 Rep. Nelly Nicol

09:54:36 Rep. SJ Howell-D

09:56:10 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:56:21 Rep. SJ Howell-D

09:56:30 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:56:54 Rep. SJ Howell-D

09:56:55 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

09:57:09 Chair Edward Buttrey

09:57:34	Rep. Eric Matthews
09:58:17	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:00:14	Rep. Steven Galloway
10:00:26	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:00:52	Rep. Steven Galloway
10:01:11	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:01:46	Rep. Steven Galloway
10:01:50	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:02:00	Rep. Steven Galloway
10:02:37	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:02:40	Rep. Steven Galloway
10:03:16	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:03:27	Rep. Bob Carter
10:03:38	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:04:02	Rep. Bob Carter
10:04:12	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:05:30	Rep. Bob Carter
10:05:46	Rep. SJ Howell-D
10:06:33	Vice Chair Derek Harvey
10:07:12	Adam Haight, Local 1686
10:07:44	Vice Chair Derek Harvey
10:08:40	Dave Galt, MCC
10:08:50	Rep. Greg Oblander
10:09:24	Rep. SJ Howell-D

10:09:46 Rep. Greg Oblander

10:10:21 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.

10:11:15 Rep. SJ Howell-D

10:12:41 Rep. Greg Oblander

10:13:37 Rep. SJ Howell-D

10:16:06 Rep. Steve Gist

10:16:52 Rep. SJ Howell-D

10:17:32 Chair Edward Buttrey left the meeting.

10:17:44 Rep. Steve Gist

10:17:46 Rep. SJ Howell-D

10:17:58 Rep. Steven Galloway

10:18:34 Chair Edward Buttrey joined the meeting.

10:18:41 Ronda Wiggers, MCMOA

10:19:25 Rep. Steve Gunderson joined the meeting.

10:19:54 Rep. Steven Galloway

10:20:03 Ronda Wiggers, MCMOA

10:20:14 Rep. Steven Galloway

10:20:29 Chair Edward Buttrey

10:20:40 Jameson Walker, Legislative Service Division (LSD)

10:21:44 Rep. Steve Gist

10:21:50 Jameson Walker, LSD

10:22:09 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

10:22:53 Al Ekblad, Local 400

**Closing Statement:**

10:23:34 Rep. SJ Howell (D), HD 95, closed the hearing on HB 386.

10:23:42 Rep. Katie Sullivan joined the meeting.

10:27:29 **Recessed**

11:00:12 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 353 - Revise barber and cosmetology occupational licensing laws**

11:00:32 **Motion:** Rep. Derek Harvey moved that **HB 353 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:00:52 Rep. Ron Marshall

11:01:12 Rep. Steven Galloway

11:00:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 371 - Allow state-chartered banks to own employee housing**

11:01:38 **Motion:** Rep. Derek Harvey moved that **HB 371 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:01:58 Rep. Steven Galloway

11:02:12 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:02:48 Rep. Denley Loge

11:03:19 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:03:28 Rep. Katie Sullivan joined the meeting.

11:01:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Galloway, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Zolnikov, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:08:10

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Jolanda Songer, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230209BUHaad\)](#)