

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

Call to Order: Chair Joshua Kassmier-R, on February 16, 2023 at 2:58 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. 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. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Andria Hardin, Research Analyst
Rose Harmon, Secretary
Loran Nelson, Remote Meeting Coordinator

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 388 02/13/2023
HB 487 02/13/2023
HJ 7 02/13/2023

Executive Action:

HB 158 DO PASS
HB 159 DO PASS
HJ 7 DO PASS

14:59:17 Chair Kassmier turned the Chair over to Vice Chair Fern.
14:59:21 Chair Kassmier has left
15:00:24 Rep. Barker has left
15:00:26 Rep. Sullivan has arrived
15:01:17 Rep. Carter has arrived

HEARING ON HJ 7 - Resolution on Livingston roundup association 100th anniversary

Opening Statement:

15:01:56 Vice Chair Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HJ 7, Resolution on Livingston roundup association 100th anniversary.

Proponent Testimony:

15:04:22 Bruce Becker, President, Livingston Round-Up Association (LRUA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:06:25 Rep. Bob Carter
15:06:40 Bruce Becker, LRUA
15:08:45 Vice Chair Dave Fern
15:08:57 Bruce Becker, LRUA

Closing Statement:

15:09:35 Vice Chair Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HJ 7.

Discussion:

15:10:51 Acting Chair Fern turned the Chair over to Vice Chair Malone

15:10:54 **Recessed**

15:15:45 Chair Kassmier has arrived

15:16:04 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 388 - Increase penalty for uninspected livestock

Opening Statement:

15:16:24 Chair Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 388, Increase penalty for uninspected livestock.

Proponent Testimony:

15:17:04 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmer's Union (MFU)

15:17:41 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Board of Livestock, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

15:20:07 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBB)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:21:34 Rep. Casey Knudsen

15:21:48 Mike Honeycutt, DOL

15:22:46 Rep. Casey Knudsen

15:23:27 Mike Honeycutt, DOL

15:24:10 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:24:25 Mike Honeycutt, DOL

15:25:40 Rep. Bob Carter -D

15:26:09 Mike Honeycutt, DOL
15:26:22 Rep. Bob Carter
15:26:30 Mike Honeycutt, DOL
15:27:27 Rep. Bob Carter
15:27:33 Mike Honeycutt, DOL
15:27:45 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
15:28:14 Rep. Casey Knudsen
15:28:35 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
15:29:07 Rep. Julie Dooling
15:29:44 Mike Honeycutt, DOL
15:30:23 Rep. Bob Carter
15:30:51 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
15:31:09 Rep. Bob Carter
15:31:23 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
15:31:27 Vice Chair Marty Malone
15:31:56 Mike Honeycutt, DOL

Closing Statement:

15:32:29 Chair Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 388.

HEARING ON HB 487 - Prohibit seed cleaning/conditioning without declaration

Opening Statement:

15:32:56 Chair Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 487, Prohibit seed cleaning/conditioning without declaration.

Proponent Testimony:

15:33:47 Gord Pearce, Director, Montana Seed Trade Association (MSTA)

[EXHIBIT\(230216AGHa1\)](#)

- 15:38:01 Mitch Ereaux, Forage Specialist, Nutrien Ag Solutions; Director, Montana Seed Trade Association (MSTA)
- 15:41:32 Tyler Heupel, President, Montana Seed Trade Association (MSTA)
- 15:44:18 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Agricultural Business Association (MABA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 15:46:08 Cort Jensen, Chief Attorney, Director's Office, Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Questions from Committee:

- 15:46:51 Rep. Casey Knudsen
- 15:47:34 Cort Jensen, MDA
- 15:49:03 Rep. Greg Kmetz
- 15:50:41 Cort Jensen, MDA
- 15:52:18 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
- 15:53:12 Tyler Heupel, MSTA
- 15:53:53 Rep. Julie Dooling
- 15:54:18 Cort Jensen, MDA
- 15:57:10 Rep. Julie Dooling
- 15:57:19 Cort Jensen, MDA
- 15:57:49 Rep. Casey Knudsen left the meeting.
- 15:58:42 Rep. Greg Kmetz
- 15:59:22 Mitch Ereaux, MSTA
- 15:59:40 Rep. Greg Kmetz
- 16:00:00 Mitch Ereaux, MSTA

16:00:20 Rep. Greg Kmetz
16:00:39 Mitch Ereaux, MSTA
16:00:50 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
16:01:13 Mitch Ereaux, MSTA
16:01:52 Rep. Melissa Romano left the meeting.
16:02:15 Rep. Bob Carter-D
16:02:50 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
16:03:14 Rep. Bob Carter-D
16:03:21 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
16:03:39 Rep. Greg Kmetz
16:03:57 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

Closing Statement:

16:04:25 Chair Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 487.

Discussion:

16:05:06 Chair Kassmier resumed the Chair position and the gavel.

16:05:31 **Recessed**

16:07:51 **Reconvened**

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

16:08:05 **Motion:** Vice Chair Marty Malone moved that **HB 158 DO PASS.**

16:08:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 159 - Repeal Livestock Crimestoppers Act

16:09:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Marty Malone moved that **HB 159 DO PASS.**

16:09:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 7 - Resolution on Livingston roundup association 100th anniversary

16:10:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Marty Malone moved that **HJ 7 DO PASS.**

16:10:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:11:30

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230216AGHaad\)](#)