

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Amy Regier-R, on February 16, 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. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
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. Zoey Zephyr (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)  
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 419 02/12/2023  
HB 426 02/08/2023  
HB 443 02/10/2023  
HB 491 02/13/2023

Executive Action:

HB 397 DO PASS  
HB 425 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 437 DO PASS  
HB 233 TO TAKE FROM THE  
TABLE

**HEARING ON HB 443 - Revise discrimination law regarding realtors and other professionals**

**Opening Statement:**

08:02:02 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 443, Revise discrimination law regarding realtors and other professionals.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230216JUH1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230216JUH2\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:04:19 Ed Buttrey, HD 13

08:05:39 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

08:07:49 Adam Hertz, Self

08:09:36 Jenna Mckinney, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:11:45 Rep. SJ Howell

08:13:50 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe-R

08:14:18 Rep. Neil Duram

08:15:34 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:16:25 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 443.

**HEARING ON HB 491 - Provide for Highway Patrol meritorious service recognition**

**Opening Statement:**

08:19:24 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 491,  
Provide for Highway Patrol meritorious service recognition.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:21:09 Jessie Luther, Association of Montana Troopers

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:22:23 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
08:25:48 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R  
08:26:14 Rep. Casey Knudsen  
08:26:49 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R  
08:27:02 Rep. Neil Duram  
08:28:18 Rep. Zooey Zephyr  
08:29:32 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R  
08:29:37 Rep. Neil Duram  
08:30:21 Rep. Zooey Zephyr  
08:30:34 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:30:47 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 491.

**HEARING ON HB 419 - Allow bonding for injunctions that prevent hunting or harvesting  
of game**

**Opening Statement:**

08:31:13 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 419, Allow  
bonding for injunctions that prevent hunting or harvesting of game.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:33:40 Matthew Monforton, Outdoor Heritage Coalition (OHC)  
08:37:27 Chris Killorn, Outdoor Heritage Coalition  
08:39:34 Chris Morgan, Montana Trappers Association  
08:41:30 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife  
08:43:02 Matt Lumley, National Trappers Association (NTA)  
08:44:32 Keith Kubista, Montana Sportsmen of Fish and Wildlife  
08:46:15 Ben Erickson, Citizens of Balanced Use  
08:48:06 Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management  
08:49:08 Francis Bauer, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:51:43 Mark Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies  
08:54:01 K.C. York, Trap Free Montana

**Questions from Committee:**

08:56:26 Rep. Zooey Zephyr  
08:57:18 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R  
08:59:43 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway  
09:01:29 Matt Lumley (NTA)  
09:03:25 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
09:04:03 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R  
09:04:23 Mathew Monforton (OHC)  
09:04:45 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
09:07:02 Mathew Monforton (OHC)  
09:08:37 Rep. Braxton Mitchell  
09:08:52 Matt Lumley (NTA)

09:09:55 Rep. Greg Kmetz  
09:10:48 Mark Cooke  
09:12:23 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway  
09:13:36 Mark Cooke  
09:15:03 Rep. Neil Duram  
09:15:18 Mark Cooke  
09:15:47 Rep. Neil Duram  
09:17:52 Mathew Monforton (OHC)  
09:18:15 Rep. Lee Deming  
09:18:45 Mathew Monforton (OHC)

**Closing Statement:**

09:19:55 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 419.

**HEARING ON HB 426 - Revising laws relating to inmates approaching parole eligibility or discharge**

**Opening Statement:**

09:24:25 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, opened the hearing on HB 426, Revising laws relating to inmates approaching parole eligibility or discharge.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:26:58 Amy Tenney, Montana Community Corrections Association (MCCA)  
09:29:20 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union Montana  
09:30:26 Alan Scanlon, Great Falls Prerelease Center (GFPC)  
09:32:57 Nicole Gomez, Montana Women Vote  
09:33:31 David Armstrong, Alternatives, Inc  
09:35:29 Mike Thatcher, Community Counseling and Corrections Services (CCCS)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:38:45 Scot Echner, Department of Corrections

09:39:10 Brad Newman, Department of Pardons and Parole

**Questions from Committee:**

09:40:39 Rep. Casey Knudsen

09:41:11 Scot Echner, DOC

09:41:38 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

09:42:20 Alan Scanlon (GFPC)

09:44:53 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

09:48:34 Amy Tenney (MCCA)

09:49:11 Rep. Greg Kmetz

09:49:26 Amy Tenney (MCCA)

09:50:16 Rep. Neil Duram

09:51:00 Mike Thatcher (CCCS)

**Closing Statement:**

09:55:40 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, closed the hearing on HB 426.

09:57:17 **Recessed**

10:18:47 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 397 - Allow DOJ to share SSNs with DOR in certain situations**

10:20:44 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 397 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:22:34 Rachel Weiss

**Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by roll call vote with Rep. Hinkle, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 425 - Generally revising laws rel. to restitution payments under the Youth Court Act**

10:22:46 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 425 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:22:53 Rachel Weiss

10:22:56 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 425 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

10:23:04 Rachel Weiss

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

10:24:03 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 425 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

10:24:19 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

10:24:55 Rep. Neil Duram

10:25:54 Rep. Donavon Hawk

**Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Etchart, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Regier, Rep. Sheldon-Galloway, voting no.  
Rep. Knudsen, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 437 - Revise drug laws**

10:27:35 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 437 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:27:45 Rep. Zooney Zephyr

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

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 233 - Require the refund of residential lease application fees**

10:29:50 **Motion:** Rep. Laurie Bishop moved that **HB 233 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

**Vote:** Motion failed 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Carlson, Rep. Duram, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Rusk, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting yes.  
Rep. Smith, By Proxy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:36:17

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Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

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