

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Amy Regier-R, on February 20, 2023 at 8:00 AM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. SJ Howell (D)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Rep. Laura Smith (D)  
Rep. Zoey Zephyr (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)

**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 452 02/10/2023  
HB 453 02/10/2023  
HB 480 02/13/2023  
HB 488 02/13/2023

Executive Action:

HB 432 TO TABLE  
HB 471 TO TABLE  
HB 474 DO PASS

**HEARING ON HB 452 - Generally revise uniform trust and probate codes**

**Opening Statement:**

08:02:24 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 452, Generally revise uniform trust and probate codes.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:04:03 Ed Eck, Uniform Law Commissioner  
08:04:22 Rep. Kim Abbott left the meeting.  
08:09:55 Molly Considine, Montana State Bar  
08:12:12 Dirk Williams, Self  
08:13:19 Vice Chair Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:14:40 Rep. Neil Duram  
08:15:00 Molly Considine  
08:16:04 Rep. Laura Smith  
08:16:43 Molly Considine  
08:19:38 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway  
08:21:33 Ed Eck

**Closing Statement:**

08:22:07 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 452.

**HEARING ON HB 453 - Clarifying the authority of the human rights bureau and appeals  
process**

**Opening Statement:**

08:23:44 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 453, Clarifying the authority of the human rights bureau and appeals process.

**Discussion:**

08:24:12 Rep. Jennifer Carlson joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:28:03 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties

[EXHIBIT\(230220JUH1\)](#)

08:31:50 John Ostlund, Yellowstone County Commissioner

08:32:40 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce

08:33:40 Adrienne Cotton, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230220JUH2\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:37:48 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties of Montana

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:37:23 Quinlan O'Connor, Human Rights Bureau

**Questions from Committee:**

08:40:50 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

08:41:25 Keegan Medrano ACLU

08:41:30 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

08:42:27 Keegan Medrano ACLU

08:43:05 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

08:43:16 Rep. Kim Abbott joined the meeting.

08:44:10 Rep. Jodee Etchart joined the meeting.

08:44:14 Keegan Medrano ACLU  
08:44:24 Rep. Tom France  
08:44:57 Keegan Medrano ACLU  
08:45:28 Rep. Tom France  
08:45:51 Rep. Zooey Zephyr left the meeting.  
08:45:56 Quinlan O'Connor  
08:47:04 Rep. Zooey Zephyr joined the meeting.  
08:47:40 Rep. Tom France  
08:47:54 Rep. Laura Smith  
08:48:15 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop left the meeting.  
08:50:01 Quinlan O'Connor  
08:50:36 Rep. Jennifer Carlson  
08:51:14 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop joined the meeting.  
08:51:39 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
08:53:12 Karen Alley MAC  
08:53:40 Rep. Caleb Hinkle left the meeting.  
08:55:53 Rep. Tom France  
08:56:23 Karen Alley MAC  
08:57:20 Rep. Tom France  
08:59:07 Quinlan O'Connor  
08:59:32 Rep. Caleb Hinkle joined the meeting.  
08:59:49 Rep. Tom France  
09:00:15 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
09:00:33 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

09:01:12 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

09:04:24 Vice Chair Brandon Ler left the meeting.

09:05:16 Rep. SJ Howell

09:05:38 Rep. Neil Duram left the meeting.

09:06:07 Rep. Braxton Mitchell joined the meeting.

09:08:27 Rep. Neil Duram joined the meeting.

09:08:58 Rep. Lee Deming left the meeting.

09:10:46 Quinlan O'Connor

09:11:22 Rep. Zooey Zephyr

09:11:58 Rep. Lee Deming joined the meeting.

09:12:06 Rep. Jodee Etchart joined the meeting.

09:12:36 Rep. Jennifer Carlson joined the meeting.

09:13:12 Quinlan O'Connor

09:13:26 Rep. Zooey Zephyr

09:16:20 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

09:17:15 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

09:17:51 Quinlan O'Connor

09:18:45 Rep. Kim Abbott

09:20:01 Rep. Laura Smith

09:20:29 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway left the meeting.

09:22:51 Quinlan O'Connor

09:23:29 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

09:25:12 Karen Alley MAC

09:26:01 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

09:26:27 Karen Alley MAC  
09:26:43 Rep. Jennifer Carlson  
09:28:32 Quinlan O'Connor  
09:29:06 Rep. Greg Kmetz  
09:29:50 John Ostlund

**Closing Statement:**

09:30:02 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 453.

**HEARING ON HB 488 - Revise security deposit law**

**Opening Statement:**

09:31:15 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 488, Revise security deposit law.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:32:59 John Sinrud, Montana Landlord's Association  
09:34:32 Vice Chair Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:35:54 Rep. SJ Howell  
09:36:19 Rep. Steven Galloway-R

**Closing Statement:**

09:36:56 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 488.

**HEARING ON HB 480 - Revise laws relating to State Lottery investigations and enforcement**

**Opening Statement:**

09:37:48 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HB 480, Revise laws relating to State Lottery investigations and enforcement.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:38:41 Bryan Costigan, Montana Lottery

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

09:41:42 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, closed the hearing on HB 480.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 432 - Generally revise abortion laws**

10:42:11 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 432 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:42:20 Rachel Weiss

10:42:21 Rep. Neil Duram

10:43:13 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

10:44:54 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway

10:47:13 Rep. Braxton Mitchell

10:47:19 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **HB 432 TO TABLE.**

10:47:19 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.  
Rep. Hawk, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 471 - Establish religious exemption to prohibitions on abortion**

11:12:15 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 471 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:12:20 Rachel Weiss

11:12:37 Rep. Neil Duram  
11:13:29 Rep. Caleb Hinkle  
11:13:43 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
11:13:53 **Motion:** Rep. Caleb Hinkle moved that **HB 471 TO TABLE.**  
11:13:53 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France,  
Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.  
Rep. Hawk, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 474 - Revise background checks for employees with federal tax information**

11:15:20 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 474 DO PASS.**  
**Discussion:**  
11:15:27 Rachel Weiss  
11:15:31 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway  
11:15:49 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
11:15:20 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Carlson, Rep. Etchart,  
Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Rusk, Rep.  
Sheldon-Galloway, voting no.  
Rep. Knudsen, By Proxy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:18:28

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Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230220JUHaad\)](#)