

MINUTES
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (H) FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross Fitzgerald-R, on February 21, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Ross Fitzgerald, Chair (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Baum (D)
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Denley Loge (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Staff Present: Toni Henneman, Research Analyst
LJ Jennings, Secretary
Rolf Johnson, 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 522 02/16/2023
HB 547 02/16/2023
HB 548 02/16/2023
HB 593 02/16/2023

HB 596 02/16/2023
Executive Action:

HB 456 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 547 DO PASS
HB 593 DO PASS

15:04:36 Chair Fitzgerald has left

HEARING ON HB 593 - Revise FWP laws related to publishing the number of nonresident licenses

Opening Statement:

15:03:35 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HB 593, Revise FWP laws related to publishing the number of nonresident licenses.

Proponent Testimony:

15:06:58 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

15:07:59 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

15:09:04 Marty Petritz, Skyline Sportsman Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:11:05 Emily Cooper, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:11:25 Rep. Paul Fielder

15:12:25 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D

15:12:50 Rep. Lee Deming

15:13:14 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D

15:13:22 Rep. Lee Deming

15:13:24 Rep. Marilyn Marler-D

15:13:31 Rep. Lee Deming

Closing Statement:

15:13:49 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, closed the hearing on HB 593.

**HEARING ON HB 522 - Provide landowner preference bison tags for landowners near
YNP**

Opening Statement:

15:14:34 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB 522, Provide landowner preference bison tags for landowners near YNP.

Proponent Testimony:

15:16:27 Edwin Johnson, Self

Opponent Testimony:

15:17:43 Lance Fourstar, American Indian Caucus

[EXHIBIT\(230221FIHa1\)](#)

15:19:20 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet

15:21:42 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

15:23:44 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

15:25:53 Nick Gevock, Bear Creek Council

15:26:43 Darrell Geist, Buffalo Field Campaign

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:29:13 Emily Cooper, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:04:42 Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed position of the Chair.

15:29:45 Rep. Gary Parry

15:30:04 Rep. Marty Malone-R

15:30:47 Rep. Denley Loge

15:31:29 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet

15:32:04 Rep. Neil Duram

15:32:28 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:32:34 Rep. Neil Duram

15:32:54 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:32:58 Rep. Neil Duram

15:33:11 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:33:17 Rep. Neil Duram

15:33:29 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:33:45 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

15:34:08 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:34:33 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

15:34:53 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:35:22 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

15:35:35 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:35:50 Rep. Gary Parry

15:36:08 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:36:23 Rep. Gary Parry

15:36:33 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:36:54 Rep. Edward Butcher

15:37:37 Rep. Marty Malone-R

15:38:05 Rep. Edward Butcher

15:38:40 Rep. Marty Malone-R

15:39:10 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:39:35 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:39:41 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:40:08 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:40:17 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:40:29 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:40:49 Rep. Gary Parry

15:41:09 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:41:35 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:42:06 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:42:10 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:42:29 Emily Cooper, FWP Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Closing Statement:

15:42:40 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HB 522.

HEARING ON HB 548 - Revise penalties for criminal trespass while collecting antlers/sheds/horns

Opening Statement:

15:44:50 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 42, opened the hearing on HB 548, Revise penalties for criminal trespass while collecting antlers/sheds/horns.

Proponent Testimony:

15:46:36 Joe Cohenour, Self
15:50:03 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
15:51:21 Dylan Davidson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, (MFBF)
15:52:13 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, (MOGA)
15:53:13 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:55:03 Ron Howell, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:55:24 Rep. Gary Parry
15:55:40 Rep. Jill Cohenour-D
15:56:07 Rep. Denley Loge
15:56:27 Ron Howell, FWP
15:57:19 Rep. Tanner Smith
15:58:01 Rep. Jill Cohenour-D
15:58:07 Rep. Jonathan Karlen joined the meeting.
15:58:13 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
15:58:41 Ron Howell, FWP
15:59:07 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
15:59:17 Ron Howell, FWP
15:59:28 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:00:21 Ron Howell, FWP
16:01:51 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:02:03 Rep. Neil Duram

16:02:21 Ron Howell, FWP
16:02:31 Rep. Neil Duram
16:02:40 Ron Howell, FWP
16:03:04 Rep. Neil Duram
16:03:11 Ron Howell, FWP
16:03:27 Rep. Neil Duram
16:03:36 Ron Howell, FWP
16:03:51 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:05:11 Rep. Jill Cohenour-D

Closing Statement:

16:06:10 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 42, closed the hearing on HB 548.

16:14:42 Chair Fitzgerald has arrived

HEARING ON HB 547 - Provide penalties for selling data/images from trail cams on public land

Opening Statement:

16:07:19 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 42, opened the hearing on HB 547, Provide penalties for selling data/images from trail cams on public land.

Proponent Testimony:

16:08:56 Joe Cohenour, Self
16:11:35 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)
16:12:42 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies, (WOR)
16:14:21 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:15:53 Ron Howell, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:16:21 Rep. Edward Butcher
16:16:53 Joe Cohenour
16:17:11 Rep. Denise Baum
16:17:32 Ron Howell, FWP
16:17:46 Rep. Gary Parry
16:18:03 Ron Howell, FWP
16:18:26 Rep. Gary Parry
16:18:42 Ron Howell, FWP
16:19:00 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:20:02 Rep. Jill Cohenour-D
16:21:29 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:22:01 Rep. Jill Cohenour-D
16:22:55 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

Closing Statement:

16:23:01 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 42, closed the hearing on HB 547.

HEARING ON HB 596 - Revise elk hunting access agreement licenses

Opening Statement:

16:25:10 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 596, Revise elk hunting access agreement licenses.

Proponent Testimony:

16:28:15 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, (MOGA)
16:29:56 Ben Lamb, Montana Citizens Elk Management Coalition

16:35:49 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Back Country Hunters and Anglers

16:37:04 Ed Beall, Private Land/Public Wildlife, (PLPW)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:38:53 Hope Stockwell, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:24:18 Chair Fitzgerald assumed position of the Chair.

16:39:25 Rep. Edward Butcher

16:40:36 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:41:13 Rep. Edward Butcher

16:41:41 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:42:09 Rep. Edward Butcher

16:42:16 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:42:37 Rep. Gary Parry

16:43:06 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:43:25 Rep. Gary Parry

16:43:43 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:44:24 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:45:01 Mac Minard, MOGA

16:46:13 Rep. Marilyn Marler

Closing Statement:

16:46:28 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 596.

16:50:08 **Recessed**

17:03:10 Vice Chair France has arrived

17:03:15 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 456 - Revise FWP super tag program laws

17:03:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 456 DO PASS.**

17:04:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 456 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:04:19 Rep. Brandon Ler

12:03:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:05:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 456 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:06:07 Rep. Brandon Ler

17:06:59 Rep. Paul Fielder

17:07:11 Rep. Brandon Ler

12:03:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:07:52 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 456 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:08:21 Rep. Marilyn Marler

17:09:09 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

17:09:30 Rep. Brandon Ler

17:09:54 Rep. Edward Butcher

17:10:52 Rep. Marilyn Marler

12:03:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. France, Rep. Marler, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no.

17:12:36 Rep. Fielder has left

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 547 - Provide penalties for selling data/images from trail cams on public land

17:12:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 547 DO PASS.**

12:03:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Duram, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Ler, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Smith, Rep. Vinton, voting no. Rep. Fielder, Rep. Vinton, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 593 - Revise FWP laws related to publishing the number of nonresident licenses

17:14:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 593 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:15:41 Rep. Denley Loge

17:16:01 Toni Henneman

17:17:06 Rep. Bob Phalen

12:03:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:20:33

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230221FIHaad\)](#)