

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

Call to Order: Chair Edward Buttrey-R, on February 23, 2023 at 8:01 AM, in Room 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Fred Anderson (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. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (D)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused: Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Denley Loge (R)

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 505 02/15/2023
HB 506 02/15/2023
HB 523 02/16/2023
HB 591 02/16/2023
HB 702 02/21/2023

HB 710 02/21/2023

Executive Action:

HB 468 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 505 DO PASS
HB 572 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 591 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 615 DO PASS
HB 702 DO PASS

HEARING ON HB 710 - Revise pharmacist laws relating to immunization

Opening Statement:

08:03:04 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 710, Revise pharmacist laws relating to immunization.

Proponent Testimony:

08:04:24 Brad Griffin, President, Montana Retail Association (MRA)
08:05:36 Bob Gardipee, Pharmacy Manager, Albertsons
08:07:40 Stuart Doggett, Executive Director, Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA)
08:09:26 Phil Hennessey
08:10:50 Jeff Nikolaisen
08:14:01 Travis Schule
08:17:05 Patricia Bross
08:18:06 Kori Miller
08:19:35 Rob Geddes, Director of Pharmacy Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Albertsons

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:21:18 Eric Strauss, Administrator, Employment Standards Division, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI-ESD)
08:21:49 Marcie Bough, Executive Officer, Board of Pharmacy

Questions from Committee:

08:22:15 Rep. Steve Gist
08:22:48 Marcie Bough, DLI-PHA

08:23:12 Rep. Steve Gist
08:23:23 Marcie Bough, DLI-PHA
08:23:40 Rep. Denley Loge joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

08:24:00 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 710.

HEARING ON HB 523 - Require reporting on emergency rental assistance paid to businesses and landlord

Opening Statement:

08:25:06 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, opened the hearing on HB 523, Require reporting on emergency rental assistance paid to businesses and landlord.

Proponent Testimony:

08:28:46 Melissa Higgins, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Housing Program, Department of Commerce (DOC-ARPA)
08:30:07 Tess Besaw, Local Community Coordinator, Coordinated Entry Process, Billings
08:31:54 Terri Todd

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:33:00 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
08:33:34 Melissa Higgins, DOC-ARPA
08:33:52 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
08:34:15 Rep. Katie Sullivan

08:34:31 Rep. Michael Yakawich-R
08:35:02 Melissa Higgins, DOC-ARPA
08:35:33 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
08:36:36 Rep. Michael Yakawich-R
08:37:16 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
08:37:35 Melissa Higgins, DOC-ARPA
08:37:42 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
08:37:52 Melissa Higgins, DOC-ARPA
08:38:03 Rep. Ron Marshall
08:38:45 Rep. Michael Yakawich-R
08:38:53 Chair Edward Buttrey
08:39:10 Rep. Michael Yakawich-R

Closing Statement:

08:39:29 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, closed the hearing on HB 523.

**HEARING ON HB 702 - Repeal termination date relating to certain Workers'
Compensation Programs**

Opening Statement:

08:40:53 Vice Chair Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, opened the hearing on HB 702, Repeal termination date relating to certain Workers' Compensation Programs.

Proponent Testimony:

08:43:32 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO
08:44:30 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)
08:44:52 Adam Haight, Laborers Local 1686

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:45:27 Eric Strauss, Administrator, Employment Standards Division, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI-ESD))

Questions from Committee:

08:45:59 Chair Edward Buttrey
08:46:12 Rep. Derek Harvey-D
08:46:27 Rep. Bob Carter
08:46:38 Rep. Derek Harvey-D
08:46:54 Eric Strauss, DLI-ESD
08:47:22 Rep. Bob Carter
08:47:33 Chair Edward Buttrey
08:47:52 Rep. Greg Oblander
08:48:07 Eric Strauss, DLI-ESD

Closing Statement:

08:48:34 Vice Chair Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, closed the hearing on HB 702.

HEARING ON HB 505 - Revise funeral insurance laws to increase minimum initial policy limit

Opening Statement:

08:50:29 Rep. Nelly Nicol (D), HD 83, opened the hearing on HB 505, Revise funeral insurance laws to increase minimum initial policy limit.

Proponent Testimony:

08:52:42 Chris Holt
08:54:59 Brad Longcake, Montana Funeral Directors Association (MFDA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:56:08 Rep. Bob Carter
08:56:20 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
08:56:45 Chair Edward Buttrey
08:57:01 Brad Longcake, MFDA
08:57:19 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
08:57:48 Rep. Bob Carter
08:58:06 Chris Holt
08:59:08 Jameson Walker, Legislative Service Division (LSD)
10:14:24 Chair Buttrey

Closing Statement:

08:59:27 Rep. Nelly Nicol (D), HD 83, closed the hearing on HB 505.

HEARING ON HB 506 - Revise workers' compenation laws through freedom of competition

Opening Statement:

09:00:18 Rep. Nelly Nicol (D), HD 83, opened the hearing on HB 506, Revise workers' compenation laws through freedom of competition.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

09:02:42 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association (MLA)
09:05:14 Adam Haight, Laborers Local 1686

09:06:34 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)
09:07:16 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)
09:08:38 Ronda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and
Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA)
09:09:55 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association (MTA)
09:10:23 Quint Nyman, Deputy Executive Director, Montana Federation of Public
Employees (MFPE)
09:11:41 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO
09:12:17 Al Ekblad, Members in Mining and Construction
09:13:50 Chad Anderson, Executive Director, Montana Insurance Guarantee
Association (MIGA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:13:08 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration (DOA)
09:13:25 Ethan Heverly, Director, Montana State Fund (MSF)

Questions from Committee:

09:16:35 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:16:56 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:17:15 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:17:32 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:18:15 Chair Edward Buttrey
09:18:27 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:18:56 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:19:00 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:20:13 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:20:43 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:21:27 Rep. Greg Oblander

09:21:38 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:21:51 Rep. Steven Galloway
09:22:21 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:22:32 Rep. Steven Galloway
09:23:08 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:23:22 Rep. Steven Galloway
09:23:39 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:24:09 Chair Edward Buttrey
09:24:29 Misty Giles, DOA
09:25:25 Chair Edward Buttrey
09:25:48 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:26:21 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:28:58 Vice Chair Derek Harvey
09:29:21 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:29:39 Vice Chair Derek Harvey
09:30:29 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:30:48 Vice Chair Derek Harvey
09:31:01 Rep. Nelly Nicol
09:31:52 Rep. Bob Carter
09:32:12 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:32:47 Rep. Bob Carter
09:33:07 Rep. Nelly Nicol
09:34:09 Rep. Bob Carter
09:34:23 Amanda Frickle, AFL-CIO

09:34:52 Rep. Ron Marshall
09:35:20 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:35:35 Misty Ann Giles, DOA
09:35:38 Rep. Ron Marshall
09:36:10 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D
09:36:20 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:36:44 Misty Ann Giles, DOA
09:36:50 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:37:06 Misty Ann Giles, DOA
09:37:36 Chair Edward Buttrey
09:37:48 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:38:03 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:38:27 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:38:34 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:38:59 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:39:10 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:39:20 Rep. Steven Galloway
09:39:40 Vice Chair Derek Harvey
09:40:20 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:40:28 Vice Chair Derek Harvey
09:40:48 Ethan Heverly, MSF
09:41:00 Chair Edward Buttrey
09:41:26 Chad Anderson, MIGA
09:41:41 Chair Edward Buttrey

09:41:54 Rep. Nelly Nicol-D

Closing Statement:

09:42:07 Rep. Nelly Nicol (D), HD 83, closed the hearing on HB 506.

HEARING ON HB 591 - Implementing travel insurance model act

Opening Statement:

09:50:30 Chair Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 591, Implementing travel insurance model act.

Proponent Testimony:

09:52:17 Reghan Worley, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Proponent Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:54:40 Rep. Steve Gist

09:55:46 Reghan Worley, CSI

09:55:59 Frank Cote, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance (CSI)

09:56:54 Rep. Nelly Nicol

09:57:30 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

09:57:37 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

09:57:50 Aimee Grmoljez, American Property and Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

09:58:14 Rep. Steve Gist

09:58:38 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

09:58:54 Rep. Steven Galloway

09:59:19 Frank Cote, CSI
10:00:14 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe
10:00:39 Frank Cote, CSI
10:01:38 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe
10:01:39 Frank Cote, CSI
10:02:05 Rep. Steve Gist
10:02:32 Frank Cote, CSI
10:03:21 Rep. Steve Gist
10:03:46 Frank Cote, CSI
10:05:03 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:05:47 Frank Cote, CSI
10:06:01 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:06:10 Frank Cote, CSI
10:06:44 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:06:50 Frank Cote, CSI
10:07:21 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:07:32 Frank Cote, CSI
10:08:27 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
10:09:04 Frank Cote, CSI
10:09:42 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald
10:10:14 Frank Cote, CSI
10:12:05 Rep. Bob Carter
10:12:18 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

Closing Statement:

10:13:07 Chair Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 591.

10:15:51 **Recessed**

10:50:24 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 468 - Revise unemployment insurance laws relating to job-attached employees

10:51:57 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 468 DO PASS.**

10:52:16 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 468 BE AMENDED.**

10:52:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.
Rep. Sullivan, By Proxy

10:54:43 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 468 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:54:58 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

10:55:39 Rep. Steven Galloway

10:56:18 Rep. Katie Zolnikov

10:57:14 Rep. Steven Galloway

10:58:01 Rep. Nelly Nicol

10:58:39 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

10:59:34 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

11:00:08 Rep. Steve Gist

11:00:31 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

10:54:43 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Buttrey, Rep. Carter, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Zolnikov, voting no.
Rep. Sullivan, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 505 - Revise funeral insurance laws to increase minimum initial policy limit

11:02:15 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 505 DO PASS.**

11:02:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 572 - Revise video gambling machine laws

11:03:15 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 572 DO PASS.**

11:03:30 **Motion:** Rep. Katie Zolnikov moved that **HB 572 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:04:22 Rep. Steven Galloway

11:04:31 Rep. Katie Zolnikov

11:05:01 Rep. Steven Galloway

11:05:06 Rep. Katie Zolnikov

11:05:16 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:05:36 Rep. Greg Oblander

11:06:04 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:03:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:06:58 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 572 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:07:08 Rep. Katie Zolnikov

11:09:21 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

11:10:06 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:10:50 Rep. Steven Galloway

11:06:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Anderson, Rep. Carter, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.
Rep. Sullivan, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 591 - Implementing travel insurance model act

11:12:36 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 591 DO PASS.**

11:12:53 **Motion:** Rep. Edward Buttrey moved that **HB 591 BE AMENDED.**

11:12:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:15:32 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 591 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

11:15:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 615 - Generally revise liability insurance laws relating to real estate professionals

11:15:57 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 615 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:17:05 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:17:40 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

11:15:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 702 - Repeal termination date relating to certain Workers' Compensation Programs

11:18:39 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 702 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:19:25 Rep. Denley Loge

11:19:35 Rep. Greg Oblander

11:19:56 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:18:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:23:07

Jolanda Songer, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230223BUHaad\)](#)