

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Edward Buttrey-R, on February 24, 2023 at 8:00 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. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Denley Loge (R)
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. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)

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 539 02/16/2023
HB 578 02/16/2023
HB 579 02/16/2023
HB 617 02/20/2023
HB 637 02/20/2023

HB 730 02/22/2023

Executive Action:

HB 434 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 523 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 578 DO PASS AS AMENDED
HB 579 DO PASS
HB 617 TO TABLE
HB 710 DO PASS

08:02:20 Rep. Karlen has arrived
08:02:36 Rep. Lynch has arrived
08:02:53 Rep. Buttrey has left

HEARING ON HB 730 - Require insurance coverage of conditions involving facial bones

Opening Statement:

08:03:25 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 730,
Require insurance coverage of conditions involving facial bones.

Proponent Testimony:

08:06:29 Trent Clifton
08:19:17 Rick Clark
08:22:09 Beverly Holland
08:24:32 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association (MDA)
08:25:36 Jean Branscum, CEO, Montana Medical Association (MMA)

Opponent Testimony:

08:26:29 Kali Wicks, Government Relations Manager, Blue Cross Blue Shield
(BCBSMT)
08:31:55 Bruce Spencer, Mountain Health Co-op
[EXHIBIT\(230224BUHa1\)](#)
08:36:31 Sean Slanger, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:37:48 Rep. Greg Oblander

08:39:01 Bruce Spencer, Mountain Health Co-op
08:40:00 Rep. Greg Oblander
08:40:18 Bruce Spencer, Mountain Health Co-op
08:40:33 Rep. Bob Carter
08:40:45 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT
08:41:06 Rep. Bob Carter
08:41:34 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT
08:42:39 Rep. Bob Carter
08:42:52 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT
08:43:49 Rep. Bob Carter
08:44:01 Kali Wicks, BCBSMT
08:45:03 Rep. Bob Carter
08:45:40 Trent Clifton
08:47:39 Rep. Bob Carter
08:47:58 Trent Clifton

Closing Statement:

08:49:14 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 730.

HEARING ON HB 617 - Create Montana standard time

Opening Statement:

08:52:25 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 617, Create Montana standard time.

Proponent Testimony:

08:54:55 William Kilgore
08:58:43 Michael Lawlor

08:59:50 Jay Pea, President, Save Standard Time

Opponent Testimony:

09:03:17 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasters Association (MBA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:06:50 Rep. James Bergstrom

09:07:10 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

Closing Statement:

09:07:48 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 617.

HEARING ON HB 539 - Generally revise alcohol laws

Opening Statement:

09:08:58 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 539, Generally revise alcohol laws.

Proponent Testimony:

09:12:14 Michael Lawlor

09:17:01 Mark Taylor, Hospitality and Development Association of Montana (HDAM)

09:18:21 Brianne Downey

09:19:56 Ryan Kunz

Opponent Testimony:

09:20:54 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

09:23:53 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Department of Revenue, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:07:57 Rep. Buttrey has arrived

08:30:27 Rep. Seekins-Crowe has left

08:51:25 Rep. Seekins-Crowe has arrived

08:52:00 Rep. Buttrey has left

09:31:02 Rep. Nelly Nicol

09:31:41 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:32:16 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:33:01 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:33:08 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:33:13 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:33:28 Rep. Ron Marshall

09:33:40 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:34:00 Rep. Bob Carter

09:34:17 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:34:43 Rep. Bob Carter

09:34:50 Rep. Buttrey has arrived

09:35:10 Rep. Bob Carter

09:35:58 Michael Lawlor

09:39:58 Rep. Steve Gist

09:40:47 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:41:14 Rep. Steve Gist

09:41:18 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

09:41:31 Rep. Steve Gist

09:50:57 Rep. Harvey has left
10:25:08 Rep. Harvey has arrived
11:21:00 Recessed
11:51:49 Reconvened

Closing Statement:

09:41:53 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 539.

HEARING ON HB 579 - Revise distillery laws relating to manufacturing premises and buildings

Opening Statement:

09:45:10 Rep. Katie Sullivan (D), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 579, Revise distillery laws relating to manufacturing premises and buildings.

Proponent Testimony:

09:46:22 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Distillers Guild (MDG)
[EXHIBIT\(230224BUHa2\)](#)
09:50:12 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)
09:50:29 Michael Lawlor
09:51:52 Nicolas Lee
09:54:04 Ryan Montgomery, President, Montana Distillers Guild (MDG)
09:55:15 Matt Melugin

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:56:57 Becky Schlauch, (Administrator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, Department of Revenue (DOR-ABCD))

Questions from Committee:

09:57:12 Rep. Steven Galloway
09:57:30 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
09:57:55 Rep. Bob Carter
09:58:06 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
09:58:23 Rep. Denley Loge
09:58:45 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
09:58:58 Rep. Steven Galloway
09:59:13 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
09:59:37 Rep. Edward Buttrey
10:00:08 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:00:26 Rep. Edward Buttrey
10:00:35 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:00:42 Rep. Edward Buttrey
10:00:58 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

Closing Statement:

10:01:13 Rep. Katie Sullivan (D), HD 89, closed the hearing on HB 579.

HEARING ON HB 637 - Revise alcohol laws related to resort areas

Opening Statement:

10:02:54 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 637, Revise alcohol laws related to resort areas.

Proponent Testimony:

10:04:35 Michael Delaney
10:10:26 Ileana Indreland-Delaney
10:12:22 Matthew Paine

10:14:51 Scott Reichner, The Delaney's

[EXHIBIT\(230224BUHa3\)](#)

10:20:04 Michael Lawlor, The Delaney's

10:21:01 Blane Woodfin

Opponent Testimony:

10:27:28 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:35:40 Becky Schlauch, (Administrator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division,
Department of Revenue (DOR-ABCD))

Questions from Committee:

10:35:57 Rep. Steve Gist

10:36:22 Scott Reichner

10:36:36 Rep. Steve Gist

10:36:41 John Iverson, MTA

10:37:51 Rep. Ron Marshall

10:38:12 Scott Reichner

10:38:23 Rep. Ron Marshall

10:38:25 Scott Reichner

10:39:23 Rep. Ron Marshall

10:39:48 Scott Reichner

10:40:24 Rep. Ron Marshall

10:40:36 Scott Reichner

10:41:16 Rep. Bob Carter

10:41:22 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD

10:42:09 Rep. Bob Carter

10:42:11 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:42:29 Rep. Bob Carter
10:42:35 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:42:46 Rep. Nelly Nicol
10:43:32 Scott Reichner
10:44:00 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:44:15 Scott Reichner
10:44:26 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:44:34 Scott Reichner
10:44:50 Rep. Edward Buttrey
10:45:26 John Iverson, MTA
10:46:39 Rep. Nelly Nicol
10:47:11 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:47:49 Rep. Nelly Nicol
10:48:16 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:48:44 Rep. Edward Buttrey
10:48:53 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:49:03 Rep. Edward Buttrey
10:49:05 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
10:49:11 Rep. Edward Buttrey
10:49:24 Rep. Steve Gist
10:49:32 Scott Reichner
10:50:44 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:50:58 Jameson Walker, Legislative Service Division (LSD)

10:51:17 Rep. James Bergstrom
10:52:08 Scott Reichner
10:52:40 Rep. Steven Galloway
10:52:41 Scott Reichner
10:53:07 Rep. Eric Matthews
10:53:50 Scott Reichner

Closing Statement:

10:54:38 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 637.

HEARING ON HB 578 - Generally revise laws alcohol laws related to special permits

Opening Statement:

10:58:11 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 578,
Generally revise laws alcohol laws related to special permits.

Proponent Testimony:

10:59:31 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Distillers Guild (MDG)
11:04:24 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)
11:04:55 Gabe Spencer

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

11:07:06 Becky Schlauch, (Administrator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division,
Department of Revenue (DOR-ABCD))

Questions from Committee:

11:07:32 Rep. Steven Galloway
11:07:53 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABCD
11:09:07 Rep. Katie Sullivan

11:09:10 Jennifer Hensley, MDG
11:10:43 Rep. Steven Galloway
11:10:51 Jennifer Hensley, MDG
11:11:10 John Iverson, MTA

Closing Statement:

11:12:51 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 578.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 434 - Revise gambling laws related to sports wagering

11:52:32 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 434 DO PASS.**
11:53:12 **Motion:** Rep. Katie Zolnikov moved that **HB 434 BE AMENDED.**
11:53:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Buttrey, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.
11:54:57 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 434 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
11:54:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.

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

11:56:30 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 523 DO PASS.**
11:56:32 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 523 BE AMENDED.**
11:56:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
11:58:54 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 523 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:59:05 Rep. Steven Galloway
11:58:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 578 - Generally revise laws alcohol laws related to special permits

- 11:59:43 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 578 DO PASS.**
- 11:59:54 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 578 BE AMENDED.**
- 11:59:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 12:00:39 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 578 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 12:00:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 579 - Revise distillery laws relating to manufacturing premises and buildings

- 12:00:52 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 579 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**
- 12:01:05 Rep. Katie Sullivan
- 12:01:19 Rep. Derek Harvey
- 12:00:52 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 617 - Create Montana standard time

- 12:01:50 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 617 DO PASS.**
- 12:02:17 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Ron Marshall moved that **HB 617 TO TABLE.**
- 12:02:17 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Zolnikov, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 710 - Revise pharmacist laws relating to immunization

- 12:04:12 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 710 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**
- 08:02:20 Rep. Karlen has arrived

08:02:36 Rep. Lynch has arrived
08:02:53 Rep. Buttrey has left
12:04:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:06:30

Jolanda Songer, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230224BUHaad\)](#)