

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R, on February 28, 2023 at 5:01 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Marty Malone, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Andria Hardin, Research Analyst
Rose Harmon, Secretary
Loran Nelson, 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 738 02/27/2023
HB 767 02/27/2023

Executive Action:

HB 475 TO TABLE
HB 738 DO PASS
HB 767 DO PASS

Other Events:

17:06:19 Chair Kassmier turned the gavel over to Vice Chair Malone.

HEARING ON HB 767 - Provide board review of brands

Opening Statement:

17:06:45 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 767, Provide board review of brands.

Proponent Testimony:

17:07:34 Dylan Davidson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBB)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:08:20 Jay Bodner, Brands Administrator, Brands Enforcement Division, Department of Livestock (DOL)

Questions from Committee:

17:08:52 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

17:08:59 Jay Bodner, DOL

17:10:17 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

17:10:28 Jay Bodner, DOL

17:11:13 Rep. James Bergstrom

17:11:32 Jay Bodner, DOL

17:11:58 Rep. James Bergstrom

17:12:16 Jay Bodner, DOL

17:12:33 Rep. Greg Kmetz

17:12:40 Jay Bodner, DOL

17:13:31 Rep. Bob Carter
17:13:38 Jay Bodner, DOL
17:14:23 Rep. Julie Dooling
17:14:51 Jay Bodner, DOL

Closing Statement:

17:15:11 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 767.

HEARING ON HB 738 - Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program

Opening Statement:

17:15:57 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 738, Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program.

Proponent Testimony:

17:17:26 Nathan Keene, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)
17:18:13 Dylan Davidson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:18:53 Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director, Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Questions from Committee:

17:15:39 Chair Kassmier resumed the chair
17:19:33 Rep. Dave Fern
17:19:47 Zach Coccoli, MDA
17:20:46 Rep. Katie Sullivan
17:21:10 Zach Coccoli, MDA
17:21:33 Rep. Braxton Mitchell left the meeting.

17:21:58 Rep. Katie Sullivan
17:22:09 Zach Coccoli, MDA
17:22:53 Rep. Dave Fern
17:23:04 Zach Coccoli, MDA
17:23:25 Nathan Keene, MGGA
17:24:29 Rep. Dave Fern
17:24:44 Rep. Greg Kmetz
17:25:10 Nathan Keene, MGGA
17:25:46 Rep. Greg Kmetz
17:25:49 Nathan Keene, MGGA
17:26:06 Rep. Greg Kmetz
17:26:10 Nathan Keene, MGGA
17:26:41 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
17:26:48 Nathan Keene, MGGA
17:27:39 Zach Coccoli, MDA
17:27:56 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
17:28:13 Zach Coccoli, MDA
17:28:47 Rep. Katie Sullivan
17:29:23 Nathan Keene, MGGA
17:30:34 Rep. Paul Green left the meeting.
17:30:49 Rep. Julie Dooling
17:31:18 Zach Coccoli, MDA
17:31:38 Rep. Braxton Mitchell joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

17:31:55 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 738.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 475 - Generally revise laws related to agricultural equipment repair

17:37:00 **Motion:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved that **HB 475 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:37:11 Rep. Katie Sullivan

17:37:57 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 475 TO TABLE.**

17:37:57 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 11 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bergstrom, Rep. Carter, Rep. Fern, Rep. Romano, Rep. Smith, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 738 - Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program

17:40:27 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 738 DO PASS.**

17:40:27 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 767 - Provide board review of brands

17:41:26 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 767 DO PASS.**

17:41:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:42:12

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230228AGHaad\)](#)