

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 28, 2023 at 4:52 PM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Ross Fitzgerald, Chair (R)
Rep. Tom France, Vice Chair (D)
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. Jonathan Karlen (D)
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)
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 757 02/23/2023
HB 765 02/23/2023
HB 773 02/24/2023
HB 779 02/24/2023

Executive Action:

HB 600 DO PASS
HB 621 TO TABLE
HB 627 DO PASS
HB 628 DO PASS
HB 630 DO PASS
HB 635 DO PASS
HB 677 TO TABLE
HB 757 TO TABLE
HB 765 TO TABLE
HB 773 TO TABLE
HB 779 TO TABLE

17:12:30 Chair Fitzgerald has left

HEARING ON HB 757 - Consideration of wildlife friendly fencing on public land

Opening Statement:

16:55:54 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 757, Consideration of wildlife friendly fencing on public land.

Proponent Testimony:

16:57:14 Rep Steve Gunderson, HD 1

16:58:37 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa1\)](#)

16:58:58 Rep. Neil Duram left the meeting.

16:59:38 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

17:00:00 Larry Sickerson, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa2\)](#)

17:01:40 Scott Boulanger, Montana Outfitters and Guides, (MOGA)

17:01:59 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

17:02:31 Caryn Miske, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club

17:03:36 Nick Gevock, Endangered Species Coalition, (ESC)

17:04:04 Marc Cooke, Self

17:04:18 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana

17:05:02 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

17:06:08 Simon Buzzard, National Wildlife Federation, (NWF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:08:47 Lori Hanauska-Brown, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)
17:09:17 Kelly Motichka, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation,
(DNRC)
17:10:08 Dr. Andrew Jakes, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

Questions from Committee:

17:11:09 Rep. Russel Miner
17:11:35 Kelly Motichka, DNRC
17:12:06 Rep. Russel Miner
17:12:15 Kelly Motichka, DNRC
17:12:37 Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed position of the Chair.
17:12:57 Rep. Russel Miner
17:13:06 Kelly Motichka, DNRC
17:13:25 Rep. Paul Fielder
17:14:17 Laurie Hanauska-Brown, FWP
17:15:11 Rep. Bob Phalen

Closing Statement:

17:15:24 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 757.
17:33:27 Chair Fitzgerald has arrived

HEARING ON HB 765 - Remove reimbursement for wolf hunting expenses

Opening Statement:

17:16:26 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D), HD 42, opened the hearing on HB
765, Remove reimbursement for wolf hunting expenses.

Proponent Testimony:

17:23:43 Lance Fourstar, Montana American Indian Caucus

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa3\)](#)

17:25:24 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

17:26:33 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa4\)](#)

17:29:17 Ta'jan Perez, Western Native Voice

17:29:33 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies, (WOR)

17:30:08 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana

17:31:07 Caryn Miske, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club

17:31:58 Shauna Gilbert, Self

17:32:17 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union

17:32:44 Jim Bell, Self

17:33:57 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa5\)](#)

17:34:58 Ilona Popper, Self

17:35:30 Rosie Costain, People and Carnivores

17:35:51 KC York, Trap Free Montana

17:36:04 Clinton Nagel, Self

17:36:32 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

17:36:47 Eric Clewis, Defenders Of Wildlife

17:37:02 Dr. Kari Gunderson, Self

17:37:27 Kim Bean, Self

17:37:50 Sue Ann Stepheson-Love, Self

17:38:50 Lon Ottosen, Self

17:39:09 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council

17:39:31 Maggie Howell, Wolf Conservation Center

17:40:12 Glenda Meyer, Self

17:40:52 Kelly Little, Self

Opponent Testimony:

17:41:32 Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management, (F4WM)

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa6\)](#)

17:45:30 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association, (MTA)

17:46:48 Michael McKenrick, Self

17:47:18 Scott Boulanger, Self

17:48:32 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, (MTSFW)

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:50:52 Laurie Hanauska-Brown, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

17:51:25 Rep. Marilyn Marler

17:52:01 Justin Webb, F4WM

17:53:29 Rep. Marilyn Marler

17:53:44 Justin Webb, F4WM

17:54:09 Rep. Marilyn Marler

17:54:12 Justin Webb, F4WM

17:54:30 Rep. Marilyn Marler

17:54:38 Justin Webb, F4WM

17:55:22 Rep. Paul Fielder

17:55:40 Justin Webb, F4WM

Closing Statement:

17:56:07 Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D), HD 42, closed the hearing on HB 765.

17:59:45 Rep. Ler has arrived

18:02:20 Rep. Duram has arrived

HEARING ON HB 773 - Generally revise fish and wildlife laws

Opening Statement:

18:00:27 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, opened the hearing on HB 773, Generally revise fish and wildlife laws.

Proponent Testimony:

18:03:38 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF) and Montana Citizens Elk Management Coalition, (MCEMC)

18:05:25 Scott Boulanger, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, (MOGA)

18:07:46 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Back Country Hunters and Anglers

18:09:10 Marty Petritz, Skyline Sportsman Association

Opponent Testimony:

18:10:50 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited, (MTU)

Informational Witness Testimony:

18:12:30 Emily Cooper, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

17:59:25 Chair Fitzgerald assumed position of the Chair.

18:13:00 Rep. Marilyn Marler

18:13:40 Clayton Elliott, MTU

18:15:21 Chair Ross Fitzgerald

18:15:39 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

18:16:29 Emily Cooper, FWP

18:17:42 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

18:18:27 Emily Cooper, FWP
18:19:20 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
18:19:56 Emily Cooper, FWP
18:20:13 Rep. Gary Parry
18:20:31 Emily Cooper, FWP
18:20:58 Rep. Gary Parry
18:21:06 Emily Cooper, FWP
18:21:27 Chair Ross Fitzgerald
18:22:00 Emily Cooper, FWP
18:22:11 Rep. Neil Duram
18:22:27 Emily Cooper, FWP

Closing Statement:

18:22:50 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, closed the hearing on HB 773.

HEARING ON HB 779 - Revise FWP commission powers to regulate wolf harvesting near national parks

Opening Statement:

18:25:29 Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D), HD 15, opened the hearing on HB 779, Revise FWP commission powers to regulate wolf harvesting near national parks.

Proponent Testimony:

18:27:47 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies, (WOR)
18:31:07 Lance Fourstar, Montana American Indian Caucus
[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa7\)](#)
18:31:52 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
18:34:30 Nick Gevock, Endangered Species Coalition and Bear Creek Council

18:35:27 Steven Capra, Footloose Montana

18:36:33 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union

18:36:51 Jim Bell, Self

18:37:26 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa8\)](#)

18:38:01 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation

18:38:20 Caryn Miske, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club

18:38:52 Shauna Gilbert, Self

18:39:22 Kim Bean, Self

18:40:03 Ilona Popper, Self

18:40:42 Michael Dahlman, Self

18:41:14 KC York, Trap Free Montana

18:41:36 Rosie Costain, People and Carnivores

18:41:56 Lon Ottosen, Self

18:42:18 Eric Clewis, Defenders Wildlife

18:42:33 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council

18:42:55 Glenda Meyer, Self

18:43:21 Dr. Kari Gunderson, Self

18:43:53 Sue Ann Stephenson-Love, Self

18:44:24 Kelly Little, Self

Opponent Testimony:

18:45:20 Justin Webb, Montana Members for Foundation for Wildlife Management, (F4WM)

18:46:53 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, (MTSFW)

Informational Witness Testimony:

18:48:53 Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

18:49:31 Rep. Paul Fielder
18:50:05 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:50:14 Rep. Paul Fielder
18:50:27 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:50:36 Rep. Paul Fielder
18:50:38 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:50:58 Rep. Paul Fielder
18:51:01 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:51:30 Rep. Paul Fielder
18:51:47 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:52:24 Rep. Neil Duram
18:52:39 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:52:54 Rep. Gary Parry
18:53:11 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:53:49 Rep. Gary Parry
18:54:04 Quentin Kujala, FWP
18:54:55 Rep. Denley Loge
18:55:36 Quentin Kujala, FWP

Closing Statement:

18:57:12 Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D), HD 15, closed the hearing on HB 779.

19:00:30 **Recessed**

19:12:12 Rep. Matthews has left

19:38:16 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 600 - Revise acreage for landowner preference hunting licenses

19:38:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 600 DO PASS.**

12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no. Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 621 - Revise land access laws for hunting and fishing

19:40:52 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 621 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

19:41:35 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

19:41:38 Rep. Brandon Ler

19:41:41 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 621 TO TABLE.**

12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no. Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 627 - Revise wolf trapping laws

19:43:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 627 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

19:43:27 Rep. Paul Fielder

[EXHIBIT\(230228FIHa9\)](#)

19:45:20 Rep. Denley Loge

19:46:02 Vice Chair Tom France

19:47:41 Rep. Neil Duram

19:48:04 Rep. Edward Butcher

19:48:32 Rep. Denley Loge

19:48:46 Quentin Kujala, FWP

19:49:17 Rep. Neil Duram

19:49:25 Quentin Kujala, FWP
19:50:14 Chair Ross Fitzgerald
19:50:22 Rep. Neil Duram
19:50:26 Quentin Kujala, FWP
19:51:17 Rep. Neil Duram
19:51:26 Quentin Kujala, FWP
12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Miner, Rep. Parry, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 628 - Revise wolf trapping laws

19:53:37 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 628 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

19:54:03 Rep. Paul Fielder

19:55:25 Rep. Marilyn Marler

12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Miner, Rep. Parry, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 630 - Revise black bear hunting laws

19:57:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 630 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

19:58:02 Rep. Paul Fielder

19:58:43 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

19:59:22 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

19:59:55 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

20:01:53 Rep. Edward Butcher

12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Miner, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 635 - Revise laws related to nonresident hunting and fishing

20:04:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 635 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

20:05:00 Vice Chair Tom France

20:05:35 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

20:06:20 Rep. Paul Fielder

12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Duram, Rep. France, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, voting no.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 677 - Generally revise bird hunting season laws related bird dog training

20:07:56 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 677 DO PASS.**

20:08:24 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 677 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

20:08:32 Vice Chair Tom France

20:10:37 Rep. Brandon Ler

20:11:09 Vice Chair Tom France

20:11:43 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion failed 16 - 3 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Matthews, voting yes.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

20:15:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 677 DO PASS.**

20:15:37 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 677 TO TABLE.**

12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 757 - Consideration of wildlife friendly fencing on public land

20:16:20 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 757 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

20:16:59 Rep. Brandon Ler

20:17:43 Vice Chair Tom France

20:18:31 Rep. Marilyn Marler
20:18:55 Rep. Edward Butcher
20:19:54 Rep. Denise Baum
20:20:10 Rep. Brandon Ler
20:20:48 Rep. Denley Loge
20:21:31 Rep. Edward Butcher
20:22:40 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion failed 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Duram, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Loge, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting yes.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy
20:24:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 757 TO TABLE.**
12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 765 - Remove reimbursement for wolf hunting expenses

20:25:12 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 765 DO PASS.**
12:50:24 **Vote:** Motion failed 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting yes.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy
20:27:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 765 TO TABLE.**
12:50:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 773 - Generally revise fish and wildlife laws

20:27:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 773 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

20:28:01 Rep. Gary Parry
20:28:32 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
20:29:20 Rep. Gary Parry
20:29:45 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
20:30:22 Rep. Marilyn Marler
20:31:25 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

- 12:50:25 **Vote:** Motion failed 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting yes.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy
- 20:34:09 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 773 TO TABLE.**
- 12:50:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 779 - Revise FWP commission powers to regulate wolf harvesting near national parks

- 20:34:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 779 DO PASS.**
- 12:50:25 **Vote:** Motion failed 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting yes.
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy
- 20:36:20 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 779 TO TABLE.**
- 12:50:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 20:38:35

LJ Jennings, Secretary

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