

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Amy Regier-R, on March 15, 2023 at 8:03 AM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. SJ Howell (D)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)  
Rep. Laura Smith (D)  
Rep. Zoey Zephyr (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)

**Staff Present:** Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary  
Rachel Weiss, 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 551 03/13/2023  
SB 164 03/13/2023  
SB 187 03/13/2023

Executive Action:



**HEARING ON HB 551 - Implement constitutional carry into the Montana Constitution**

**Opening Statement:**

08:04:26 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 551, Implement constitutional carry into the Montana Constitution.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:04:40 Gary Marbut, Montana Shooting Sports Association

08:09:26 Garrett Bacon, Self

08:10:29 Rep. Braxton Mitchell, HD 3

08:12:05 Sen. Barry Usher, SD 20

08:12:59 Jerry Mygland, Self

08:13:49 Ken Conrad, Self

08:15:01 Brian Gosch, National Rifle Association

08:15:43 Elena Gagliano, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:18:26 Nick Gevock, Gun Owners for Safety

08:21:00 Shani Henry, Gun Owners for Safety

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:23:20 Rep. Zooey Zephyr

08:32:09 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:32:31 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 551.

**HEARING ON SB 164 - Name MHP headquarters for Kris Hansen**

**Opening Statement:**

08:33:29 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 164, Name MHP headquarters for Kris Hansen.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:36:02 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

08:39:10 Steve Lavin, Montana Highway Patrol

08:42:09 Sue Hansen, Self

08:47:32 Bowen Greenwood, Self

08:50:17 David Ortley, Deputy Attorney General

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:51:59 Rep. Tom France

08:53:10 Sen. Barry Usher-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:54:42 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 164.

**HEARING ON SB 187 - Allow remote appearances by counsel in criminal and certain civil hearings**

**Opening Statement:**

08:57:28 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 187, Allow remote appearances by counsel in criminal and certain civil hearings.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:00:32 Brian Smith, Public Defenders Office

09:02:51 Paula Stannard, Department of Health and Human Services

09:04:57 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:06:24 Steven Fagenstrom, Montana Magistrates Association

09:15:26 Rebecca Meyers, Montana Magistrates Association

**Questions from Committee:**

09:19:53 Rep. Greg Kmetz

09:57:03 Steven Fagenstrom

**Closing Statement:**

09:58:43 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 187.

10:01:58 **Committee Discussion:** Use of certain vocabulary

10:02:03 Rep. SJ Howell

10:02:42 Vice Chair Brandon Ler

10:03:04 Rep. Kim Abbott

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:04:03

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Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230315JUHaad\)](#)