

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson-R, on March 15, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Steve Gist, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: LJ Jennings, Secretary
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst
John Olson, 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:

SB 43 03/09/2023
SB 48 03/09/2023
SB 219 03/13/2023

Executive Action:

SB 43
SB 48
SB 39
SB 83 TO TABLE

HEARING ON SB 48 - Repeal detachable metal beverage container opener laws

Opening Statement:

15:02:24 Sen. Christopher Pope (D), SD 65, opened the hearing on SB 48, Repeal detachable metal beverage container opener laws.

Proponent Testimony:

15:05:02 Amy Steinmetz, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

15:05:57 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue, (DOR)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:07:14 Sen. Christopher Pope (D), SD 65, closed the hearing on SB 48.

HEARING ON SB 43 - Revise notice for certain timber sales

Opening Statement:

15:07:49 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 43, Revise notice for certain timber sales.

Proponent Testimony:

15:08:57 Dan Rogers, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, (DNRC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:13:19 Rep. Marty Malone
15:13:45 Dan Rogers, DNRC
15:14:24 Rep. Marty Malone
15:14:39 Dan Rogers, DNRC
15:14:56 Rep. Tom France left the meeting.
15:15:26 Rep. Gary Parry
15:15:41 Dan Rogers, DNRC

Closing Statement:

15:16:09 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, closed the hearing on SB 43.

HEARING ON SB 219 - Revise wildfire suppression laws

Opening Statement:

15:17:13 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 219, Revise wildfire suppression laws.

Proponent Testimony:

15:24:34 Matthew Hall, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, (DNRC)
15:27:30 Leo Dutton, Sheriff Lewis and Clark County

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:31:14 Vice Chair Steve Gist

15:31:24 Sheriff Leo Dutton, Lewis and Clark County

15:32:40 Vice Chair Steve Gist

15:32:47 Sheriff Leo Dutton, Lewis and Clark County

15:33:02 Vice Chair Steve Gist

15:33:14 Sheriff Leo Dutton, Lewis and Clark County

15:33:41 Rep. Gary Parry

15:34:16 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:34:38 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:34:50 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald left the meeting.

15:35:36 Matthew Hall, DNRC

15:36:17 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:36:46 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

15:37:13 Matthew Hall, DNRC

15:37:40 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

15:38:50 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:40:02 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

15:40:46 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:41:05 Vice Chair Steve Gist

15:41:22 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:42:45 Vice Chair Steve Gist

15:43:01 Rep. Tom France joined the meeting.

15:43:16 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

15:43:34 Vice Chair Steve Gist
15:43:37 Rep. Marvin Weatherwax joined the meeting.
15:43:48 Sen. Willis Curdy-D
15:44:58 Vice Chair Steve Gist
15:45:19 Matthew Hall, DNRC
15:46:03 Vice Chair Steve Gist
15:46:40 Matthew Hall, DNRC
15:47:08 Chair Steve Gunderson
15:47:29 Matthew Hall, DNRC
15:47:59 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

15:48:19 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, closed the hearing on SB 219.

15:49:35 **Recessed**

16:08:27 Rep. Fitzgerald has arrived

16:33:28 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 43 - Revise notice for certain timber sales

16:34:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 43 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:02:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:34:50 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Marty Malone

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 48 - Repeal detachable metal beverage container opener laws

16:35:41 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 48 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:02:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:35:41 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Kenneth Walsh

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 39 - Revise permitting for incinerators

16:36:24 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 39 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:02:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:36:24 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Sue Vinton

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 83 - Create western Montana conservation commission

16:37:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 83 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:38:06 Rep. Tom France

16:40:00 Rep. Marty Malone

16:40:52 Rep. Tom France

10:02:13 **Vote:** Motion failed 8 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Gist, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Vinton, Rep. Walsh, voting yes. Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Vinton, By Proxy

16:42:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 83 TO TABLE.**

10:02:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:43:48

LJ Jennings, Secretary

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