

MINUTES
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (H) FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross Fitzgerald-R, on March 16, 2023 at 3:01 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. Jonathan Karlen (D)
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. Tanner Smith (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)
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:

SB 84 03/10/2023

SB 85 03/10/2023

SB 281 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

SB 58
SB 76
SB 88

15:07:56 Rep. Ler has arrived
15:08:09 Rep. Duram has left
15:30:57 Chair Fitzgerald has left

HEARING ON SB 85 - Require management of delisted grizzly bears at sustainable levels

Opening Statement:

15:02:59 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 85, Require management of delisted grizzly bears at sustainable levels.

Proponent Testimony:

15:04:52 Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)
15:05:25 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, (MOGA)
15:06:17 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association, (MTA)
15:06:42 Peggy Trenk, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, (RMEF)
15:07:32 Nick Courville, Self
15:07:56 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.
15:08:16 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, (MFBF)
15:09:17 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, (MTSFW)

Opponent Testimony:

15:10:53 Nick Gevock, Endangered Species Coalition, (ESC)
15:14:04 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
15:16:33 Lance Fourstar, Montana American Indian Caucus
[EXHIBIT\(230316FIHa1\)](#)
15:17:46 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

15:18:44 Rosie Costain, People and Carnivores, (PAC)

15:21:09 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

15:22:30 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:24:03 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

15:25:51 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:30:43 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

15:31:24 Rep. Edward Butcher

15:31:35 Nick Gevock, ESC

15:35:25 Rep. Edward Butcher

15:35:54 Rep. Marilyn Marler

15:35:58 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:35:59 Nick Gevock, ESC

15:37:00 Rep. Edward Butcher

15:37:30 Nick Gevock, ESC

15:38:10 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:38:42 Nick Gevock, ESC

15:38:59 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle

15:39:29 Nick Gevock, ESC

15:40:17 Rep. Tanner Smith

15:40:58 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:41:45 Rep. Tanner Smith

15:41:49 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:42:04 Rep. Marilyn Marler
15:42:42 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
15:42:54 Rep. Bob Phalen
15:43:38 Nick Courville
15:44:25 Vice Chair Tom France
15:45:32 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:48:03 Vice Chair Tom France
15:49:07 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:49:24 Vice Chair Tom France
15:50:07 Nick Gevock, ESC
15:50:16 Rep. Neil Duram
15:50:44 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:51:17 Rep. Neil Duram
15:51:28 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:51:40 Rep. Gary Parry
15:52:08 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:52:15 Rep. Gary Parry
15:52:45 Quentin Kujala, FWP

Closing Statement:

15:54:49 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 85.

HEARING ON SB 281 - Revise laws related to nonresident hunting and fishing

Opening Statement:

15:56:12 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 281, Revise laws related to nonresident hunting and fishing.

Proponent Testimony:

- 15:58:47 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, (MOGA)
- 16:02:30 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF) Montana Citizen Elk Management Coalition, (MCEMC)
- 16:04:05 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers,

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 16:05:52 Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

- 16:06:20 Rep. Gary Parry
- 16:06:43 Vice Chair Tom France
- 16:07:18 Sen. Pat Flowers-D
- 16:08:24 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
- 16:08:52 Quentin Kujala, FWP
- 16:09:13 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
- 16:09:23 Quentin Kujala, FWP

Closing Statement:

- 16:09:29 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, closed the hearing on SB 281.

HEARING ON SB 84 - Revise laws related to hunting and aircraft use

Opening Statement:

- 16:10:53 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB 84, Revise laws related to hunting and aircraft use.

Proponent Testimony:

- 16:12:09 Phil Kilbreath, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

16:14:00 Michael McKenrick, Self
16:14:21 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)
16:15:09 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Opponent Testimony:

16:16:28 Nick Gevock, Endangered Species Coalition, (ESC)
16:18:52 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies, (WOR)
16:21:56 Lance Fourstar, Montana American Indian Caucus
[EXHIBIT\(230316FIHa2\)](#)
16:23:38 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:30:59 Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed position of the Chair.
16:25:31 Rep. Edward Butcher
16:25:58 Phil Kilbreath, FWP
16:26:11 Rep. Edward Butcher
16:26:50 Phil Kilbreath, FWP
16:27:11 Rep. Edward Butcher
16:27:30 Phil Kilbreath, FWP
16:28:09 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:28:21 Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)
16:28:49 Rep. Marilyn Marler
16:30:17 Sen. Bob Brown-R
16:31:43 Rep. Marilyn Marler
16:31:59 Sen. Bob Brown-R

16:33:00 Rep. Gary Parry
16:33:08 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:33:58 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:34:23 Marc Cooke, WOR
16:35:25 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:36:17 Sen. Bob Brown-R
16:37:14 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle
16:37:43 Sen. Bob Brown-R
16:38:28 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:38:43 Rep. Edward Butcher
16:39:27 Rep. Tanner Smith

Closing Statement:

16:39:59 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 7, closed the hearing on SB 84.

16:40:43 Chair Fitzgerald has arrived
16:41:32 Chair Fitzgerald assumed position of the Chair.
16:42:59 **Recessed**
16:56:58 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 58 - Increase landowner payment cap for block management

16:57:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **SB 58 BE CONCURRED IN.**
09:21:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
16:57:58 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Brandon Ler

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 76 - Remove requirement to attach paper tags to a game animal carcass

16:59:59 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **SB 76 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:21:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:59:59 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Eric Matthews

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 88 - Exempt lifetime fishing licenses for the blind from AIS
pass**

17:02:12 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **SB 88 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:21:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:02:12 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Gary Parry

17:06:32 Rep. Duram has arrived

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:08:21

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230316FIHaad\)](#)