

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

Call to Order: Chair Amy Regier-R, on March 16, 2023 at 8:01 AM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (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. Wayne Rusk (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Laura Smith (D)
Rep. Zoey Zephyr (D)

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:

SB 148 03/13/2023
SB 149 03/13/2023
SB 265 03/13/2023
SJ 3 03/13/2023

Executive Action:

SB 12 TO TABLE
SB 13
SB 164
SJ 3

HEARING ON SJ 3 - Joint resolution related to the Justice Counts Initiative

Opening Statement:

08:03:14 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, opened the hearing on SJ 3, Joint resolution related to the Justice Counts Initiative.

Proponent Testimony:

08:03:55 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana

Opponent Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

08:04:49 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, closed the hearing on SJ 3.

HEARING ON SB 148 - Revise laws regarding legal representation of children

Opening Statement:

08:05:57 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, opened the hearing on SB 148, Revise laws regarding legal representation of children.

Proponent Testimony:

08:09:46 Beth Brenneman, Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

08:10:29 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance

Opponent Testimony:

08:12:47 Bruce Spencer, Montana Judges Association

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:17:57 Nikki Grossberg, Office of the Public Defender

08:18:18 Brett Chandelson, Office of the Public Defender

Questions from Committee:

08:19:15 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

08:31:32 Denise Johnson

08:35:49 Sen. Dennis Lenz-R

Closing Statement:

08:38:40 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, closed the hearing on SB 148.

08:55:57 Vice Chair Ler has arrived

08:56:03 Rep. Smith has arrived

HEARING ON SB 149 - Establish penalties for false reporting in child protective services cases

Opening Statement:

08:44:14 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, opened the hearing on SB 149, Establish penalties for false reporting in child protective services cases.

Proponent Testimony:

08:46:23 Nikki Grossberg, Office of the Public Defender

08:47:02 Paul Bleach, Self

08:47:24 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance

Questions from Committee:

08:50:46 Rep. SJ Howell

08:57:19 Nikki Grossberg OPD

Opponent Testimony:

None

Closing Statement:

08:57:51 Sen. Dennis Lenz (R), SD 53, closed the hearing on SB 149.

HEARING ON SB 265 - Increase penalty for conviction of criminal activity of human trafficking

Opening Statement:

08:59:49 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 265, Increase penalty for conviction of criminal activity of human trafficking.

Proponent Testimony:

09:01:45 Alex Sterhan, Department of Justice

09:02:27 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:03:06 Rep. Lee Deming

09:04:08 Alex Sterhan

Closing Statement:

09:04:23 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 265.

09:05:52 **Recessed**

09:24:58 Rep. Knudsen has arrived

09:25:09 Rep. Zephyr has arrived

09:26:51 Rep. Smith has arrived

09:30:07 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 12 - Revising laws on public defender representation related to local ordinances

09:30:15 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SB 12 TO TABLE.**

09:30:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 13 - Revise DUI laws related to admissible tests for presence of drugs

09:30:52 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SB 13 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:30:52 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:30:52 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Neil Duram

09:31:25 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway has left

09:31:33 Vice Chair Ler has arrived

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 164 - Name MHP headquarters for Kris Hansen

09:31:50 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SB 164 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:31:50 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. France, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.

09:31:50 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Amy Regier

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 3 - Joint resolution related to the Justice Counts Initiative

09:33:13 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SJ 3 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:33:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:33:13 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Laurie Bishop

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 09:33:53

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