

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

Call to Order: Chair Joshua Kassmier-R, on March 21, 2023 at 3:03 PM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)
Rep. Marty Malone, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)
Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Rep. Dave Fern (D)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: Andria Hardin, Research Analyst
Rose Harmon, Secretary
Loran Nelson, 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 78 03/16/2023
SB 202 03/16/2023
SB 217 03/16/2023
SB 375 03/16/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 375 - Remove notice for killing animals running at large

Opening Statement:

15:05:03 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 375, Remove notice for killing animals running at large.

Proponent Testimony:

11:37:45 Rep. Frank Smith joined the meeting.

15:07:24 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana

15:10:36 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Officer, Board of Livestock, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

15:11:50 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

15:12:35 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrower's Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:13:49 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:14:08 Mike Honeycutt, DOL

15:14:43 Rep. Frank Smith

15:15:02 Sponsor

15:15:50 Mike Honeycutt, DOL

15:16:48 Rep. Bob Carter

15:17:12 Mike Honeycutt, DOL

15:18:18 Rep. Paul Green

15:19:11 Sponsor

Closing Statement:

15:19:47 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 375.

HEARING ON SB 78 - Revise reimbursement values for registered livestock

Opening Statement:

15:21:14 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 78, Revise reimbursement values for registered livestock.

Proponent Testimony:

15:24:32 George Edwards, Executive Director, Livestock Loss Board, Centralized Services Division, Montana Department of Livestock (MLLB-DOL)

15:28:21 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrower's Association

15:28:49 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmer's Union

15:29:12 Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association

15:29:42 Rachael Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Opponent Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:30:30 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:30:58 George Edwards, MLLB-DOL

15:31:02 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:31:11 George Edwards, Self

15:32:40 Rep. Paul Green

15:33:16 George Edwards, MLLB-DOL

15:34:17 Rep. Julie Dooling

15:34:34 George Edwards, MLLB-DOL
15:35:53 Rep. Bob Carter
15:36:23 George Edwards, MLLB-DOL
15:36:57 Rep. Julie Dooling
15:37:14 George Edwards, MLLB-DOL

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Closing Statement:

15:37:53 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, closed the hearing on SB 78.

**HEARING ON SB 217 - Revise rangeland improvement loan state special revenue
account**

Opening Statement:

15:39:20 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 217, Revise rangeland improvement loan state special revenue account.

Proponent Testimony:

15:41:01 Mark Bostrom, Administrator, Conservation Resource Development Division, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
15:42:00 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrower's Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:42:59 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
15:43:16 Mr. Bostrum, DNRC

15:44:41 Rep. James Bergstrom

15:44:51 Mr. Bostrum, DNRC

Closing Statement:

15:45:31 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, closed the hearing on SB 217.

HEARING ON SB 202 - Generally revise the Montana Local Food Choice Act

Opening Statement:

15:46:01 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 202, Generally revise the Montana Local Food Choice Act.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:51:37 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmer's Union

15:53:58 Tammy Howard, Coordinator, Montana Farmer's Market Network

16:02:16 Pam Walzer, Founding President and Treasurer, Missoula Valley Winter Market

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:58:16 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:58:52 Tammy Howard

15:59:22 Rep. Bob Carter

15:59:38 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

16:00:09 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

16:00:37 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

16:04:48 Rep. Bob Carter

16:05:21 Tammy Howard

Closing Statement:

16:06:36 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 202.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:09:47

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230321AGHaad\)](#)