

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Joshua Kassmier-R, on March 23, 2023 at 2:44 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. Bob Carter (D)  
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)  
Rep. Paul Green (R)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern (D)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

**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:

HB 834 03/21/2023

Executive Action:

SB 202

HB 487 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 821 DO PASS AS AMENDED

14:46:20           **Recessed**

14:52:30           Rep. Weatherwax has arrived

14:52:31           Rep. Walsh has arrived

14:52:32           Rep. Wirth has arrived

14:52:36           **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 202 - Generally revise the Montana Local Food Choice Act**

14:52:50           **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **SB 202 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:53:11           Rep. Bob Carter

14:52:50           **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Dooling, Rep. Fern, Rep. Romano, Rep. Smith, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.  
Rep. Fern, Rep. Smith, By Proxy

14:52:50           **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Marty Malone

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 487 - Prohibit seed cleaning/conditioning without declaration**

14:56:27           **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 487 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

14:56:27           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:57:03           **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 487 DO PASS.**

14:57:10           **Motion:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved that **HB 487 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:56:20           Rep. Frank Smith joined the meeting.

14:58:00           Rep. Bob Carter

14:58:08           Chair Joshua Kassmier

14:57:10           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:59:18 **Motion:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved that **HB 487 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

14:59:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Kmetz, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 821 - Appropriate money to dept. of ag for weed control**

15:00:07 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 821 DO PASS.**

15:00:30 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 821 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:00:44 Vice Chair Marty Malone

15:01:39 Rep. Casey Knudsen

15:00:30 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:02:42 **Motion:** Rep. Marty Malone moved that **HB 821 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

15:02:42 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**HEARING ON HB 834 - Exempt agricultural property from open space bonds**

**Opening Statement:**

15:03:30 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 834, Exempt agricultural property from open space bonds.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230323AGHa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:07:17 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

15:07:49 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

15:09:16 Rep. James Bergstrom  
15:09:32 Rep. Jane Gillette-R  
15:10:28 Rep. Julie Dooling  
15:11:50 Rep. James Bergstrom  
15:12:10 Rep. Jane Gillette-R  
15:12:53 Rep. Zack Wirth  
15:14:05 Rep. Jane Gillette-R  
15:15:26 Rep. Casey Knudsen  
15:16:27 Rep. Jane Gillette-R  
15:17:43 Rep. James Bergstrom  
15:17:56 Rep. Julie Dooling  
15:18:18 Rep. Jane Gillette-R  
15:18:41 Rep. Bob Carter  
15:19:15 Rep. Jane Gillette-R  
15:20:39 Chair Joshua Kassmier

**Closing Statement:**

15:21:12 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, closed the hearing on HB 834.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:21:41

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Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230323AGHaad\)](#)