

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Denley Loge-R, on March 24, 2023 at 2:33 PM, in 455

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Denley Loge, Chair (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Denise Baum (D)  
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)  
Rep. Bob Carter (D)  
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)  
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)  
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)  
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern (D)

**Staff Present:** Sara Hess, Research Analyst  
Macy McCauley, Secretary

**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 847 03/20/2023  
SB 309 03/20/2023  
SB 344 03/20/2023  
SB 421 03/20/2023  
SB 452 03/20/2023

Executive Action:

SB 255 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED  
SB 263

SB 288  
SB 293

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 255 - Revising electric vehicle charging station laws**

14:35:44 **Motion:** Rep. Neil Duram moved that **SB 255 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:35:49 **Motion:** Rep. Neil Duram moved that **SB 255 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:36:53 Sara Hess

14:35:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

14:38:58 **Motion:** Rep. Neil Duram moved that **SB 255 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:47:53 Sara Hess

14:48:21 Rep. Frank Smith

14:48:29 Chair Denley Loge

14:38:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 263 - Allow airport authorities to enter into certain contracts for 50 years**

14:52:09 **Motion:** Rep. Neil Duram moved that **SB 263 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:52:09 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:52:09 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Denley Loge

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 288 - Eliminate sunset on junk vehicle statute**

14:53:36 **Motion:** Rep. Neil Duram moved that **SB 288 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:53:50 Rep. Scot Kerns

14:53:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:53:36 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 293 - Revise transportation laws related to invasive species**

14:55:24           **Motion:** Rep. Neil Duram moved that **SB 293 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:55:24           **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:55:24           **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Bob Carter

14:57:39           **Recessed**

15:15:14           **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON SB 309 - Establish the Ensign James A Shelton Memorial Highway**

**Opening Statement:**

15:15:42           Sen. Dan Bartel (R), SD 29, opened the hearing on SB 309, Establish the Ensign James A Shelton Memorial Highway.

**Discussion:**

15:15:54           Sen. Usher

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:20:14           Chair Denley Loge

15:20:15           Rep. Bob Carter

**Closing Statement:**

15:20:50           Sen. Dan Bartel (R), SD 29, closed the hearing on SB 309.

**Discussion:**

15:20:57           Sen. Usher

**HEARING ON SB 344 - Revise license plate laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:21:19 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 344, Revise license plate laws.

**Discussion:**

15:21:21 Sen. Barry Usher-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:22:18 Brian Thompson

15:22:48 Josh Jonas

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:24:16 Rep. Tanner Smith

**Closing Statement:**

15:25:25 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 344.

**Discussion:**

15:25:30 Sen. Barry Usher-R

**HEARING ON SB 452 - Revise the transportation commission's authority to set speed limits**

**Opening Statement:**

15:26:43 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 452, Revise the transportation commission's authority to set speed limits.

**Discussion:**

15:26:46 Sen. Barry Usher-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:28:14           Dustin Rouse

**Questions from Committee:**

15:28:38           Rep. Bob Carter

**Closing Statement:**

15:31:13           Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 452.

**Discussion:**

15:31:17           Sen. Barry Usher-R

**HEARING ON SB 421 - Generally revise vehicle salvage laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:40:20           Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 421, Generally  
revise vehicle salvage laws.

**Discussion:**

15:40:22           Sen. Chris Friedel-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:44:01           Will Selph

[EXHIBIT\(230324TRHa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230324TRHa2\)](#)

15:49:46           Jacob Griffith

15:51:59           Mike Walker

15:52:24           Brad Griffin

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:55:12 Rick Thompson

**Questions from Committee:**

15:55:50 Vice Chair Neil Duram

15:57:56 Rep. Tanner Smith

15:59:08 Vice Chair Neil Duram

**Closing Statement:**

15:59:55 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 421.

**Discussion:**

15:59:59 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

**HEARING ON HB 847 - Revise personalized vehicle license plates to display livestock brands**

**Opening Statement:**

16:02:34 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 847, Revise personalized vehicle license plates to display livestock brands.

**Discussion:**

16:02:35 Rep. Julie Dooling-R

[EXHIBIT\(230324TRHa3\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:07:17 Allen Doane

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:09:25 Mike Walker

**Questions from Committee:**

16:10:01 Rep. Edward Butcher  
16:11:29 Rep. Tanner Smith  
16:12:06 Rep. Edward Butcher  
16:14:18 Vice Chair Neil Duram  
16:16:48 Rep. Denise Baum  
16:18:20 Rep. Bob Carter  
16:19:47 Rep. Edward Butcher

**Closing Statement:**

16:20:41 Rep. Julie Dooling (R), HD 70, closed the hearing on HB 847.

**Discussion:**

16:20:45 Rep. Julie Dooling-R

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:23:03

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Macy McCauley, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230324TRHaad\)](#)