

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

Call to Order: Chair Amy Regier-R, on March 27, 2023 at 8:00 AM, in 137

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)
Rep. Laura Smith (D)
Rep. Zooey Zephyr (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Kim Abbott (D)
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)
Rep. SJ Howell (D)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)

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:

HB 862 03/22/2023
HB 866 03/22/2023
SB 279 03/20/2023
SB 307 03/20/2023

SB 313 03/20/2023
Executive Action:

HB 479 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 184
SB 247
SB 277 TO TABLE
SB 286

HEARING ON HB 866 - Constitutional amendment related to redistricting

Opening Statement:

08:02:29 Vice Chair Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 866, Constitutional amendment related to redistricting.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

08:03:42 Noreen Appling-Freistadt, Self

08:06:50 Rosanne Nash, League of Women Voters

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:12:38 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

08:13:24 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

Closing Statement:

08:13:18 Vice Chair Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, closed the hearing on HB 866.

HEARING ON SB 279 - Revise offer of settlement law

Opening Statement:

08:14:24 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 279, Revise offer of settlement law.

Proponent Testimony:

08:16:31 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

08:17:16 Carry Hegriberg, Montana Bankers Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:18:37 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

08:19:37 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R

Closing Statement:

08:19:43 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 279.

HEARING ON HB 862 - Prohibit use of public funds for abortion and exceptions

Opening Statement:

08:20:08 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 862, Prohibit use of public funds for abortion and exceptions.

Proponent Testimony:

08:22:02 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

08:23:33 Mathew Brower, Montana Catholic Conference (MCC)

08:35:49 Tanaia Wise, Abort Ignorance Montana

Opponent Testimony:

08:24:26 Robin Turner, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUM)

08:28:04 Aileen Glizer, Blue Mountain Clinic

08:30:24 Robyn Morrison, The League of Women Voters

08:33:27 Jennifer Hensley, Missoula County

08:37:22 Martha Fuller, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

08:39:19 Danielle Vazquez, Montana Women Vote

08:40:23 Jenna Martin, Montana Branch of National Organization for Women (NOW)

08:41:47 Hillary-Anne Crosby, Self

08:42:40 Keegan Nashan, Self

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:44:48 Paula Stannard, Department of Public Health and Human Services

08:45:07 Mary Lemiex, Medicaid

Questions from Committee:

08:45:32 Rep. Casey Knudsen

08:48:57 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

Closing Statement:

08:49:22 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 862.

HEARING ON SB 313 - Revise judiciary laws

Opening Statement:

08:54:51 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 313, Revise judiciary laws.

[EXHIBIT\(230327JUHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:59:23 Rep. Casey Knudsen

08:59:43 Sen. Keith Regier-R

Closing Statement:

09:00:06 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 313.

09:00:52 **Recessed**

10:08:46 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 479 - Provide appropriation for DOJ to assume law enforcement PL-280

10:10:43 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **HB 479 DO PASS.**

10:10:48 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **HB 479 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:10:56 Rachel Weiss

10:10:59 Rep. Casey Knudsen

10:12:08 Rep. Donavon Hawk

10:12:10 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

10:12:26 Rep. Donavon Hawk

10:12:38 Rep. Tom France

10:13:22 Rep. Donavon Hawk

10:13:44 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

10:15:31 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **HB 479 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Vote: Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.
Rep. Howell, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 184 - Revise procedural requirements in child abuse and neglect proceedings

10:16:46 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 184 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:17:07 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

10:18:35 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

Vote: Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.
Rep. Howell, By Proxy

Carrier Assigned: Rep. Jennifer Carlson

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 247 - Revise covenant laws

10:21:46 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 247 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:22:01 Rachel Weiss

10:22:11 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 247 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:23:21 Rep. Casey Knudsen

10:24:46 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

10:26:20 Rep. Casey Knudsen

Vote: Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.
Rep. Howell, By Proxy

10:27:59 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 247 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Vote: Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.
Rep. Howell, By Proxy

Carrier Assigned: Rep. Casey Knudsen

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 277 - Revise laws relating to victims of crime

10:29:41 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 277 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:29:49 Rachel Weiss

10:29:59 Rep. Casey Knudsen

10:30:45 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

10:31:54 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 277 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:32:22 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

Vote: Motion failed 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Carlson, Rep. Etchart, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting yes.
Rep. Etchart, Rep. Howell, By Proxy

10:35:33 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 277 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:35:56 Rep. Laura Smith

10:36:56 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

Vote: Motion failed 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting yes.
Rep. Howell, By Proxy

10:39:11 **Motion:** Rep. Casey Knudsen moved that **SB 277 BE TABLED.**

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 286 - Revise probate law regarding collection of personal property by affidavit

10:39:40 **Motion:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell moved that **SB 286 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Carrier Assigned: Rep. Braxton Mitchell

RECONSIDERATION OF SB89

10:40:30 **Motion:** Vice Chair Laurie Bishop moved to reconsider SB 89.

Vote: Motion failed 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. J Hinkle, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting yes.
Rep. Howell, By Proxy

HEARING ON SB 307 - Revise reporting requirements for nonprofits and charitable trusts

Opening Statement:

10:44:58 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 307, Revise reporting requirements for nonprofits and charitable trusts.

Proponent Testimony:

10:48:28 Megan Schmidt, Philanthropy Round Table (PRT)

10:50:41 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

10:52:04 Wyatt Lapraim, Americans For Prosperity

10:54:42 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

10:56:31 Liz Moore, Montana Non-Profit Association

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:01:46 Rep. Neil Duram

11:09:56 Megan Schmidt, PRT

Closing Statement:

11:10:22 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 307.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:11:21

Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230327JUHaad\)](#)