

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

Call to Order: Chair Edward Buttrey-R, on March 28, 2023 at 8:04 AM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)
Rep. Bob Carter (D)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Denley Loge (R)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

Staff Present: Macy McCauley, Secretary
Jameson Walker, 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 894 03/27/2023
HB 896 03/27/2023
HB 898 03/27/2023
HB 903 03/27/2023
SB 300 03/20/2023
SB 504 03/20/2023

Executive Action:

HB 836 DO PASS AS AMENDED

SB 178

SB 179 TO TABLE

SB 203

HEARING ON SB 300 - Revise speech pathologist and audiologist licensing laws

Opening Statement:

08:06:41 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 300, Revise speech pathologist and audiologist licensing laws.

Discussion:

08:06:43 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty-D

Proponent Testimony:

08:09:45 Shelby Midboe

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:14:48 Eric Strauss

Questions from Committee:

08:15:15 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

Closing Statement:

08:15:47 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D), SD 38, closed the hearing on SB 300.

Discussion:

08:15:51 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty-D

HEARING ON HB 894 - Generally revise alcohol laws

Opening Statement:

08:16:48 Chair Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 894, Generally revise alcohol laws.

Discussion:

08:16:17 Vice Chair Seekins-Crowe takes over as Chair.

08:16:50 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

Proponent Testimony:

08:22:42 Jessie Luther

08:27:01 Brad Griffin

08:28:10 Scott Reichner

08:29:50 John Iverson

08:38:19 Steve Lueveck

Opponent Testimony:

08:41:13 Debra Pitassy

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:43:43 Becky Schlauch

Questions from Committee:

08:44:34 Rep. Steve Gist

08:46:23 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

08:46:53 Rep. Steven Galloway

08:48:12 Rep. James Bergstrom

08:48:41 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

08:53:17 Rep. Greg Oblander

Closing Statement:

08:55:12 Chair Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 894.

Discussion:

08:55:15 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

HEARING ON SB 504 - Generally revise veterinary laws

Opening Statement:

08:56:45 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 504, Generally revise veterinary laws.

Discussion:

08:56:47 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

Proponent Testimony:

08:57:56 Marta Pierpoint

09:03:31 Francesca DiStefano

09:06:16 Dr. Samantha Mitchell

09:09:08 Gina Bartano-Knepp

09:11:19 Robin Childers

Opponent Testimony:

09:14:57 Dr. Jeanie Rankin

09:19:14 Alexandra Johnson

09:20:32 Katie Rein

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:23:14 Eric Strauss

Questions from Committee:

09:23:32 Rep. Steven Galloway

09:25:14 Rep. Bob Carter

09:28:13 Rep. James Bergstrom

09:30:41 Rep. Bob Carter

Closing Statement:

09:32:49 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, closed the hearing on SB 504.

Discussion:

09:32:55 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

HEARING ON HB 898 - Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act

Opening Statement:

09:35:52 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 898, Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act.

Discussion:

09:35:55 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

Proponent Testimony:

09:38:44 Alison Corbyn

09:39:18 Rebecca Myers

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:40:16 Leanne Taylor

Questions from Committee:

09:40:39 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

09:46:23 Rep. Greg Oblander

09:46:24 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

09:48:34 Rep. Steve Gist

09:48:51 Rep. Bob Carter

09:56:43 Chair Edward Buttrey

Closing Statement:

09:58:03 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 898.

Discussion:

09:58:07 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

HEARING ON HB 903 - Generally revise marijuana laws

Opening Statement:

10:00:17 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 903, Generally revise marijuana laws.

Discussion:

10:00:20 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

Proponent Testimony:

10:03:27 Kate Chalewa

[EXHIBIT\(230328BUHa1\)](#)

10:08:57 Barbie Turner

10:10:55 Joanna Barney

Opponent Testimony:

10:12:09 Kristen Barbour

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:14:22 Rep. Katie Sullivan

10:16:25 Rep. James Bergstrom

Closing Statement:

10:17:56 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 903.

Discussion:

10:18:00 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

HEARING ON HB 896 - Generally revise workers' compensation laws

Opening Statement:

10:25:33 Rep. Nelly Nicol (R), HD 83, opened the hearing on HB 896, Generally revise workers' compensation laws.

Discussion:

08:56:39 Chair Buttrey takes over as Chair.

10:25:35 Rep. Nelly Nicol-R

[EXHIBIT\(230328BUHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230328BUHa3\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:35:25 Kevin Braughn

10:42:50 Cory Shaw

10:44:48 David Smith

10:46:10 Jason Toddhunter

10:50:19 Frank Cote

10:51:31 Ronda Wiggers

10:54:06 Riley Honeycutt

10:55:19 John Semple

10:56:34 Adam Haight

10:56:58 Amanda Frickle

10:59:19 Luke Hoffer

10:59:37 John Iverson

11:00:19 Sherridan Johnson

11:01:42 Quint Nyman

Informational Witness Testimony:

11:02:29 Eric Strauss

Questions from Committee:

11:03:36 Rep. Greg Oblander

11:05:33 Rep. Denley Loge

Closing Statement:

11:06:49 Rep. Nelly Nicol (R), HD 83, closed the hearing on HB 896.

Discussion:

11:06:56 Rep. Nelly Nicol-R

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 836 - Revise insurance laws relating to regulatory waivers

11:40:11 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 836 DO PASS.**

11:40:27 **Motion:** Rep. Katie Zolnikov moved that **HB 836 BE AMENDED.**

11:40:27 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:41:31 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 836 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

11:41:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 178 - Generally revise cryptocurrency laws

11:41:56 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 178 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

11:42:21 Rep. Katie Zolnikov

11:43:07 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:43:24 Rep. Greg Oblander

11:43:36 Rep. Katie Sullivan

11:41:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.

11:41:56 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Edward Buttrey

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 179 - Revise alcohol laws relating to beer purchases

11:45:47 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 179 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:45:57 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 179 BE AMENDED.**

11:45:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Bergstrom, Rep. Carter, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Nicol, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Zolnikov, voting no.
Rep. Galloway, By Proxy

11:49:25 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gunderson moved that **SB 179 TO TABLE.**

11:49:25 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bergstrom, Rep. Buttrey, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Gist, Rep. Loge, Rep. Matthews, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 203 - Revise law for transfer of critical infrastructure and agricultural land

11:50:54 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 203 BE CONCURRED IN.**

11:50:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:50:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Paul Green

11:51:29 **Motion:** Rep. Ross Fitzgerald moved that **SB 203 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:52:24 Rep. Bob Carter

11:52:41 Rep. Nelly Nicol

11:52:50 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

11:51:29 **Vote:** Motion failed 10 - 9 by roll call vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Fitzgerald, Rep. Gist, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Loge, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Oblander, voting yes.

12:51:04 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 203 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:51:04 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

12:51:04 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Paul Green

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:56:17

Macy McCauley, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230328BUHaad\)](#)