

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Ross Fitzgerald-R, on March 28, 2023 at 2:55 PM, in 172

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Ross Fitzgerald, Chair (R)  
Rep. Tom France, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Denise Baum (D)  
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)  
Rep. Denley Loge (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)  
Rep. Russel Miner (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)  
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

**Staff Present:** Toni Henneman, Research Analyst  
LJ Jennings, Secretary  
Rolf Johnson, 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 846 03/22/2023  
HB 854 03/22/2023  
HB 887 03/23/2023  
SB 280 03/22/2023

Executive Action:

HB 826 TO TABLE

HB 843 TO TABLE

HB 854 TO TABLE

HB 887 DO PASS

HB 846 DO PASS AS AMENDED

14:58:10 Rep. Ler has arrived  
14:59:13 Vice Chair Hinkle has arrived  
15:02:13 Rep. Duram has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 846 - Resident bonus point system for Smith River**

**Opening Statement:**

14:57:23 Vice Chair Tom France (D), HD 94, opened the hearing on HB 846, Resident bonus point system for Smith River.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:05:52 Bruce Farling, Self  
15:07:59 Greg Munther, Montana Sportsmen Alliance, (MSA)  
15:09:30 Marc Cooke, Self  
15:10:21 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Back Country Hunters and Anglers  
15:12:13 Kit Fischer, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:14:06 Colin Cooney, Montana Trout Unlimited, (MTU)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:17:53 Hope Stockwell, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:18:30 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:18:48 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:19:07 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:19:13 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:19:37 Rep. Gary Parry

15:19:43 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:20:29 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:20:31 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:20:43 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:20:50 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:21:19 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:21:33 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:21:41 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:21:45 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:22:05 Chair Ross Fitzgerald  
15:22:33 Chair Ross Fitzgerald  
15:22:37 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:22:59 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:23:33 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:23:53 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:24:02 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:24:17 Rep. Edward Butcher  
15:24:46 Hope Stockwell, FWP

**Closing Statement:**

15:25:04 Vice Chair Tom France (D), HD 94, closed the hearing on HB 846.

**HEARING ON HB 887 - Establish a wildlife accommodation and crossing account**

**Opening Statement:**

15:27:09 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 887, Establish a wildlife accommodation and crossing account.

**Proponent Testimony:**

- 15:30:23 Shane Scanlon, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, (TRCP)  
[EXHIBIT\(230328FIHa1\)](#)
- 15:33:25 Ameer Grmoljez, American Property and Casualty Association, (APCA)
- 15:34:11 Rep. Sue Vinton joined the meeting.
- 15:34:53 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association, (MCA)
- 15:35:25 Greg Munther, Montana Sportsmen Alliance, (MSA)
- 15:36:17 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)
- 15:37:07 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
- 15:38:33 Peggy Trenk, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, (RMEF)
- 15:39:29 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies, (WOR)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

- 15:41:01 Larry Flynn, Montana Department of Transportation, (MDT)
- 15:41:41 Deb O'Neill, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

**Questions from Committee:**

- 15:42:17 Rep. Gary Parry
- 15:42:34 Larry Flynn, MDT
- 15:43:07 Rep. Jonathan Karlen joined the meeting.
- 15:43:30 Rep. Gary Parry
- 15:43:44 Larry Flynn, MDT
- 15:44:02 Rep. Edward Butcher
- 15:44:26 Larry Flynn, MDT
- 15:44:32 Rep. Edward Butcher

15:44:50 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:45:10 Rep. Edward Butcher  
15:45:28 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:46:12 Rep. Lee Deming  
15:46:29 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:46:58 Rep. Marilyn Marler  
15:47:38 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:48:04 Rep. Marilyn Marler  
15:48:52 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:50:25 Rep. Neil Duram  
15:51:03 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:51:24 Rep. Neil Duram  
15:51:33 David Smith, MCA  
15:52:22 Rep. Neil Duram  
15:52:28 David Smith, MCA  
15:52:37 Rep. Lee Deming  
15:52:58 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:53:37 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:53:55 Deb O'Neill, FWP  
15:54:38 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:55:11 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:55:20 Rep. Marilyn Marler  
15:55:46 Rep. Katie Zolnikov-R  
15:55:49 Rep. Edward Butcher

15:56:50 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:57:23 Rep. Edward Butcher  
15:57:45 Larry Flynn, MDT  
15:58:06 Rep. Paul Fielder  
15:58:45 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:59:28 Chair Ross Fitzgerald  
15:59:29 Deb O'Neill, FWP

**Closing Statement:**

16:00:30 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 887.  
  
16:00:42 Rep. Matthews has left  
16:04:05 Chair Fitzgerald has left  
16:04:13 Rep. Ler has left  
16:32:44 Chair Fitzgerald has arrived

**HEARING ON SB 280 - Revise bird dog training laws**

**Opening Statement:**

16:04:25 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 280, Revise bird dog training laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:06:33 Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)  
16:08:04 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)  
16:09:09 Rebecca Boslough-King, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, (MACD)

[EXHIBIT\(230328FIHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230328FIHa3\)](#)

16:11:30 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon  
16:13:22 Stephen Christian, Self  
16:16:35 Alycia Nathe, Daniels County Conservation District

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:20:35 Greg Munther, Montana Sportsmen Alliance, (MSA)  
16:22:38 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Back Country Hunters and Anglers  
16:23:06 Rep. Tanner Smith left the meeting.  
16:24:58 Pat Howe, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230328FIHa4\)](#)

16:29:47 Taylor Todd, Self  
16:31:17 John McIltrout, Self  
16:33:23 Bryce Daviess, Self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:34:45 Shawn Thomas, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation,  
(DNRC)  
16:35:16 Jessica Hoag, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation,  
(DNRC)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:35:49 Rep. Denley Loge  
16:36:21 John McIltrout  
16:36:58 Rep. Denley Loge  
16:38:14 Alycia Nathe, DCCD  
16:38:45 Rep. Gary Parry  
16:39:15 Quentin Kujala, FWP  
16:39:31 Vice Chair Tom France  
16:39:54 Shawn Thomas, DNRC

16:40:04	Vice Chair Tom France
16:40:10	Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:40:26	Vice Chair Tom France
16:40:40	Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:41:08	Vice Chair Tom France
16:41:09	Shawn Thomas, DNRC
16:41:31	Vice Chair Tom France
16:41:39	Jessica Hoge, DNRC
16:42:14	Vice Chair Tom France
16:42:31	Jessica Hoge, DNRC
16:42:46	Vice Chair Tom France
16:43:05	Jessica Hoge, DNRC
16:43:22	Vice Chair Tom France
16:43:46	Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:44:08	Vice Chair Tom France
16:44:39	Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:45:39	Vice Chair Tom France
16:46:06	Sen. Mike Lang-R
16:49:19	Rep. Marilyn Marler
16:49:49	Sen. Mike Lang-R
16:50:31	Rep. Marilyn Marler
16:51:10	Rep. Edward Butcher
16:52:43	Sen. Mike Lang-R
16:54:34	Rep. Gary Parry

16:54:49 Quentin Kujala, FWP

16:55:42 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:56:30 Bryce Daviess

**Closing Statement:**

16:57:28 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 280.

16:59:02 Vice Chair Hinkle has left

**HEARING ON HB 854 - Revise trapping laws to require warning signs**

**Opening Statement:**

17:02:44 Rep. Bob Carter (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on HB 854, Revise trapping laws to require warning signs.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230328FIHa5\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

17:11:36 Gail Joslin, Self

17:14:49 Betsy Brandborg, Self

17:18:04 Bryan Dalpes, Self

17:19:52 Camile Certain, Self

17:21:11 Jane Madison, Self

17:23:13 Dr. Shaney Henry, Self

17:25:26 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

17:26:28 Anja Heister, Self

17:29:02 Glenda Meyer, Self

17:29:44 Cathy Scholtens, Self

17:30:45 Dr. Kari Gunderson, Self

17:32:23 Jonathan Haufler, Self  
17:34:05 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:03:47 Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed the position of the Chair.  
16:32:55 Chair Fitzgerald assumed the position of the Chair.  
17:35:17 Tim McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association, (MTA)  
17:36:49 Michael McKenrick, Montana Trappers Association, (MTA)  
17:39:29 Garrett Bacon, Self  
17:40:45 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, (MTSFW)  
17:42:11 Kristopher Killorn, Outdoor Heritage Coalition, (OHC)  
17:43:48 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle joined the meeting.

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:44:11 Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:44:37 Rep. Neil Duram  
17:45:03 Quentin Kujala, FWP  
17:46:07 Rep. Neil Duram  
17:46:25 Quentin Kujala, FWP  
17:46:49 Rep. Paul Fielder  
17:49:27 Rep. Bob Carter-D  
17:50:00 Rep. Paul Fielder  
17:50:23 Rep. Bob Carter-D  
17:51:29 Rep. Paul Fielder  
17:52:15 Rep. Bob Carter-D  
17:54:20 Rep. Denley Loge

17:55:12 Quentin Kujala, FWP  
17:55:31 Rep. Gary Parry  
17:56:02 Tim McKenrick, MTA  
17:56:17 Rep. Gary Parry  
17:56:20 Tim McKenrick, MTA  
17:56:28 Rep. Neil Duram  
17:56:58 Tim McKenrick, MTA  
17:57:10 Rep. Neil Duram  
17:57:19 Tim McKenrick, MTA  
17:57:46 Rep. Denise Baum  
17:58:13 Tim McKenrick, MTA  
17:58:43 Rep. Denise Baum  
17:58:48 Tim McKenrick, MTA

**Closing Statement:**

17:59:13 Rep. Bob Carter (D), HD 98, closed the hearing on HB 854.  
  
18:04:16 **Recessed**  
  
18:24:04 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 826 - Phase out prison pheasant program**

18:26:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 826 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

18:26:55 Rep. Marilyn Marler  
18:26:56 Rep. Paul Fielder  
18:27:15 Rep. Denise Baum  
18:28:12 Rep. Lee Deming

- 18:28:43 Vice Chair Tom France
- 18:28:48 Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle joined the meeting.
- 18:28:57 Rep. Neil Duram joined the meeting.
- 18:29:01 Rep. Jonathan Karlen joined the meeting.
- 18:26:31 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Miner, Rep. Running Wolf, voting yes.  
Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, By Proxy
- 18:31:29 **Motion:** Rep. Edward Butcher moved that **HB 826 TO TABLE.**
- 18:31:29 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 843 - Free hunting/fishing for service members/veterans with 50% disability rating**

- 18:32:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 843 DO PASS.**
- 18:32:41 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 843 BE AMENDED.**
- 18:32:41 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 18:35:02 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 843 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 18:35:02 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Vinton, voting yes.  
Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Vinton, By Proxy
- 18:37:32 **Motion:** Rep. Edward Butcher moved that **HB 843 TO TABLE.**
- 18:37:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 854 - Revise trapping laws to require warning signs**

- 18:38:18 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 854 DO PASS.**
- 18:38:18 **Vote:** Motion failed unanimously by voice vote.
- 18:38:54 **Motion:** Rep. Paul Fielder moved that **HB 854 TO TABLE.**
- 18:38:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Butcher, Rep. Duram, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, voting no.  
Rep. Matthews, Rep. Running Wolf, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 887 - Establish a wildlife accommodation and crossing account**

18:40:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 887 DO PASS.**

18:40:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Butcher, Rep. Fielder, Rep. Loge, Rep. Miner, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Vinton, voting no.  
Rep. Vinton, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 846 - Resident bonus point system for Smith River**

18:51:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 846 DO PASS.**

18:51:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Tom France moved that **HB 846 BE AMENDED.**

18:51:51 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

18:53:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jedediah Hinkle moved that **HB 846 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

18:53:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Ler, Rep. Phalen, voting no.  
Rep. Ler, By Proxy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 18:55:57

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LJ Jennings, Secretary

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