

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Amy Regier-R, on March 28, 2023 at 8:01 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. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. SJ Howell (D)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Rep. Laura Smith (D)  
Rep. Zooey Zephyr (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)

**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 865 03/22/2023  
SB 368 03/20/2023  
SB 377 03/20/2023  
SB 419 03/24/2023

SB 429 03/20/2023  
Executive Action:

SB 429 TO TABLE  
HB 862 DO PASS  
SB 279  
SB 307  
SB 313

**HEARING ON SB 419 - Ban tik-tok in Montana**

**Opening Statement:**

08:02:03 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 419, Ban tik-tok in Montana.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:05:19 Austin Knudsen, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

08:07:36 Ann Dormady, Montana Department of Justice (DOJ)

08:10:42 Eric Tarr, Department of Justice

08:11:52 Steve Cape, Montana Coalition of Safety and Justice

08:14:28 Joel Thayer, Digital Progress Institute

08:16:38 Bryan Burack, Heritage Center

08:18:26 Keith Krach, Krach Institute for Diplomacy in Perdue

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:21:56 Jeremy Trebas, Self

08:23:28 Shauna White Bear, White Bear Moccasins

08:26:10 Victoria Cheyenne, Self

08:28:04 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUM)

08:30:07 Daniel Carlino, Self

08:31:18 Christopher Marchese, Net Choice

08:32:51 Frederick Baker, Self

08:35:12 David Edmonson, TechNet

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:36:30 Anna Schneider, Office of Consumer Protection, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:37:07 Rep. Greg Kmetz

09:18:45 Austin Knudsen, DOJ

**Closing Statement:**

09:19:30 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, closed the hearing on SB 419.

**HEARING ON SB 368 - Generally revise laws related to minors**

**Opening Statement:**

09:22:01 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 368, Generally revise laws related to minors.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:28:05 Matt Furlong, Montana Child Protection Alliance

09:30:34 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:32:38 Matthew Cuffe, Judicial District 19

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:43:58 Nikki Grossberg, Child Protective Services (CPS)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:37:25 Rep. Neil Duram

09:41:43 Matthew Cuffe, Judicial District 19

**Closing Statement:**

09:44:21 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 368.

**HEARING ON HB 865 - Provide for a local government expenditure limitation & penalties**

**Opening Statement:**

09:48:47 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 865, Provide for a local government expenditure limitation & penalties.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:51:46 Jesse Ramos, Americans for Prosperity Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230328JUH1\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:54:55 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

09:56:38 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns

09:57:47 Tom Rolfe, Board of County Commissioners

09:59:51 Greg Chilcutt, Ravalli County

10:01:04 Candice Payne, Lewis and Clark County Commissioner

10:03:37 Jennifer Hensley, County of Missoula

[EXHIBIT\(230328JUH2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230328JUH3\)](#)

10:07:32 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings

10:08:41 Danette Gleason, Butte-Silver Bow Consolidated Government

10:11:15 Tim Burton, Helena City Manager

10:13:45 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protection Association

10:16:06 Eric Burke, Federation of Public Employees

10:18:40 Ole Hedstrom, Montana State Firemen's Association

10:19:44 Paul Finley, Missoula Rural Fire

10:20:50 Adam Haight, Laborers 1686

10:21:33 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

10:23:04 Dustin Lensing, City of Belgrade Police

10:24:29 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

10:26:38 Russ Nelson, Mayor of Belgrade

10:28:27 Gwen Jones, Missoula City Counsel  
10:31:04 Chris Hindoién, Mayor of Choteau  
10:31:52 William Barron, Lake County  
10:32:50 Jeff Burrows, Ravalli County Commissioner  
10:34:10 Richard Cowger, Montana Fire Alliance

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

10:35:58 Rep. Lee Deming  
11:16:52 Danette Gleason, Butte-Silver Bow

**Closing Statement:**

11:18:35 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, closed the hearing on HB 865.

**HEARING ON SB 377 - Revise laws for courts of limited jurisdiction**

**Opening Statement:**

11:23:36 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 377, Revise laws for courts of limited jurisdiction.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

11:25:18 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop  
11:26:22 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R

**Closing Statement:**

11:26:43 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 377.

**HEARING ON SB 429 - Revise inventory law for certain estates**

**Opening Statement:**

11:26:55 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 429, Revise inventory law for certain estates.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

11:27:33 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 429.

11:28:23 **Recessed**

11:47:55 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 429 - Revise inventory law for certain estates**

11:42:08 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SB 429 BE TABLED.**

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

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 862 - Prohibit use of public funds for abortion and exceptions**

11:48:49 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **HB 862 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:48:55 Rep. Laura Smith

**Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 279 - Revise offer of settlement law**

11:52:04 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SB 279 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:52:10 Rep. Zooley Zephyr

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

**Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Braxton Mitchell

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 307 - Revise reporting requirements for nonprofits and charitable trusts**

11:53:35 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SB 307 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:53:48 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

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

**Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Amy Regier

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 313 - Revise judiciary laws**

11:56:15 **Motion:** Rep. Brandon Ler moved that **SB 313 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:56:32 Rep. Tom France

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

**Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Tom France

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:57:46

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Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

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