

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Edward Buttrey-R, on March 29, 2023 at 8:03 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. 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)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)

**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 871 03/23/2023  
HB 907 03/27/2023  
HB 923 03/29/2023

Executive Action:

HB 87 DO PASS AS AMENDED

HB 849 TO TABLE  
HB 867 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 896 TO TABLE  
HB 898 DO PASS  
HB 903 DO PASS  
HB 711 TO TABLE

**HEARING ON HB 923 - Revise workers compensation laws to increase benefits**

**Opening Statement:**

08:08:48 Vice Chair Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, opened the hearing on HB 923, Revise workers compensation laws to increase benefits.

**Discussion:**

08:38:20 Rep. Derek Harvey-D

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:13:50 Carter Marsh

08:14:57 Amanda Frickle

08:16:08 John Forkan

08:17:22 Adam Haight

08:18:29 Eric Rasmusson

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:19:56 Steve Wade

08:20:06 Kevin Bartsch

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08:22:16 Sherridan Johnson

08:22:22 Aimee Grmaljez

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:26:32 Eric Strauss

08:27:20 Kevin Braughn

**Questions from Committee:**

08:26:15 Rep. Denley Loge

08:28:28 Rep. James Bergstrom  
08:28:40 Rep. Greg Oblander  
08:30:13 Rep. Steve Gist  
08:32:27 Rep. Katie Sullivan  
08:34:43 Chair Edward Buttrey  
08:34:57 Rep. Steven Galloway  
08:36:21 Chair Edward Buttrey  
08:36:36 Rep. James Bergstrom  
08:38:13 Rep. James Bergstrom  
08:38:30 Rep. Steve Gist  
08:41:11 Chair Edward Buttrey  
08:42:01 Rep. Greg Oblander  
08:43:13 Rep. Bob Carter

**Closing Statement:**

08:44:04 Vice Chair Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, closed the hearing on HB 923.

**Discussion:**

08:44:07 Rep. Derek Harvey-D

**HEARING ON HB 871 - Create the off-premises all-beverages alcohol license**

**Opening Statement:**

08:49:12 Rep. Sherry Essmann (R), HD 52, opened the hearing on HB 871, Create the off-premises all-beverages alcohol license.

**Discussion:**

08:49:18 Rep. Sherry Essmann-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 08:54:08 | Jeff Crouch                                 |
| 08:58:34 | Leta McGann                                 |
| 09:01:52 | Thather Lunda                               |
| 09:03:22 | Jennifer Hensley                            |
| 09:07:35 | Joel Silverman                              |
| 09:11:10 | Nicole Hankins                              |
| 09:12:25 | John Iverson                                |
| 09:13:56 | Dave Morekerke                              |
| 09:15:46 | Penny Kyes                                  |
| 09:17:47 | Kelsey Brown                                |
| 09:19:00 | Shawn Brown                                 |
| 09:19:53 | K.C. Hill                                   |
| 09:21:18 | Scott Moore                                 |
| 09:22:57 | Brendan Byrd                                |
| 09:24:57 | Seth Wolfgram                               |
| 09:26:32 | Liah Allison                                |
| 09:29:53 | Mark Lewis                                  |
|          | <a href="#"><u>EXHIBIT(230329BUHa2)</u></a> |
| 09:35:03 | Melissa Shannon                             |
|          | <a href="#"><u>EXHIBIT(230329BUHa3)</u></a> |
| 09:36:41 | Jessie Luther                               |
| 09:37:41 | Matt Leow                                   |

09:38:13 Shawna Helfert

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:39:50 Becky Schlauch

**Questions from Committee:**

09:40:27 Rep. Greg Oblander

09:43:47 Rep. Steve Gunderson

09:44:30 Rep. Steven Galloway

09:50:32 Rep. Ron Marshall

**Closing Statement:**

09:53:03 Rep. Sherry Essmann (R), HD 52, closed the hearing on HB 871.

**Discussion:**

09:53:06 Rep. Sherry Essmann-R

**HEARING ON HB 907 - Generally revise marijuana laws**

**Opening Statement:**

10:03:22 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 907,  
Generally revise marijuana laws.

**Discussion:**

10:03:24 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:10:32 Michelle Jenicek

10:17:43 Kelsey Conophy

10:20:40 Zachary Grosfield

11:02:04 Tony Isbell

**Opponent Testimony:**

10:25:08 Jennifer Hensley

10:28:32 Pepper Peterson  
10:33:21 Kate Cholewa  
10:36:54 Antonette Lininger  
10:46:04 Barbie Turner  
10:49:31 Glenn Broughton  
10:52:20 Kaari Fulton  
10:54:00 Mariah Bond  
10:54:22 Roy Noland  
10:55:19 Todd Harwell  
10:57:52 Andrey Umansky  
10:59:46 Joanna Barney

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:40:26 Kristen Barbour  
10:40:39 Devin Keller  
10:40:48 Court Jensen  
11:05:35 Rachel Clark

**Questions from Committee:**

10:42:11 Rep. James Bergstrom  
10:43:44 Rep. Greg Oblander  
10:45:26 Rep. Greg Oblander  
11:05:52 Rep. Steve Gist  
11:07:33 Rep. Bob Carter

**Closing Statement:**

11:09:09 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 907.

**Discussion:**

11:09:12 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 87 - Standardize licensing board organization**

11:44:17 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 87 DO PASS.**

11:44:22 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 87 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:45:34 Rep. Steve Gist

11:44:22 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:46:22 **Motion:** Rep. Greg Oblander moved that **HB 87 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:47:12 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

11:47:37 Rep. Katie Sullivan

11:48:25 Jameson Walker

11:48:49 Rep. Katie Sullivan

11:49:30 Jameson Walker

11:49:54 Chair Edward Buttrey

11:50:28 Rep. Greg Oblander

11:51:30 Rep. Steve Gunderson

11:46:22 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Buttrey, Rep. Carter, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.  
Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, By Proxy

11:52:49 **Motion:** Rep. Katie Sullivan moved that **HB 87 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:53:32 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe

11:52:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:53:59 **Motion:** Rep. Katie Sullivan moved that **HB 87 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:55:21 Rep. Eric Matthews

11:55:37 Rep. Steve Gist

- 11:55:44 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe
- 11:56:18 Rep. Bob Carter
- 11:56:21 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe
- 11:53:59 **Vote:** Motion failed 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Buttrey, Rep. Carter, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Zolnikov, voting yes.  
Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, By Proxy
- 11:58:20 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 87 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

- 11:58:25 Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe
- 11:58:20 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 9 by voice vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Nicol, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Zolnikov, voting no.  
Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 849 - Revise alcohol and gaming law relating to county all-beverages licenses**

- 11:59:54 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 849 DO PASS.**
- 12:00:13 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 849 BE AMENDED.**
- 12:00:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 12:00:53 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 849 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 12:00:53 **Vote:** Motion failed 15 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Buttrey, Rep. Gist, Rep. Seekins-Crowe, Rep. Sullivan, voting yes.
- 12:01:58 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 849 TO TABLE.**
- 12:01:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 867 - Generally revise agency liquor store laws**

- 12:02:20 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 867 DO PASS.**
- 12:02:28 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 867 BE AMENDED.**
- 12:02:28 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 12:03:26 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 867 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

12:03:26 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Anderson, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Oblander, voting no. Rep. Galloway, Rep. Harvey, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 896 - Generally revise workers' compensation laws**

12:05:01 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 896 DO PASS.**

12:05:09 **Motion:** Rep. Nelly Nicol moved that **HB 896 BE AMENDED.**

12:05:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by roll call vote with Rep. Bergstrom, voting no.

12:07:25 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 896 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

12:07:31 Rep. Jennifer Lynch

12:07:44 **Motion:** Rep. Jennifer Lynch moved that **HB 896 TO TABLE.**

12:07:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by roll call vote with Rep. Nicol, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 898 - Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act**

12:09:09 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 898 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

12:09:37 Rep. Katie Sullivan

12:09:51 Rep. Eric Matthews

12:09:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Buttrey, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Gist, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Nicol, voting no. Rep. Galloway, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 903 - Generally revise marijuana laws**

12:11:19 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 903 DO PASS.**

12:11:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 711 - Revise alcohol laws relating to the collection of payment for beer and wine**

12:15:25 **Motion:** Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **HB 711 DO PASS.**

12:15:31 **Motion:** Rep. Steve Gunderson moved that **HB 711 TO TABLE.**

12:15:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:16:25

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Macy McCauley, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230329BUHaad\)](#)