

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Bob Phalen-R, on March 29, 2023 at 8:01 AM, in 455

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Julie Dooling, Chair (R)  
Rep. Kelly Kortum, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Denise Baum (D)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Gregory Frazer (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)  
Rep. Ed Stafman (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)  
Rep. Michael Yakawich (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Paul Green (R)  
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Staff Present:** Heather Kellum, Secretary  
Rebecca Power, 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 878 03/23/2023

HB 892 03/27/2023

HB 893 03/27/2023

HB 905 03/27/2023

HB 951 03/28/2023

Executive Action:

HB 951 DO PASS  
HB 878 TO TABLE  
HB 892 DO PASS  
HB 893 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
HB 905 TO TABLE

**HEARING ON HB 951 - Make the round dance the official state dance of Montana**

**Opening Statement:**

08:04:55 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 951, Make the round dance the official state dance of Montana.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:09:22 Rep. Gregory Frazer

08:10:31 Rep. Frank Smith

**Closing Statement:**

08:11:15 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HB 951.

08:23:07 Vice Chair Phalen has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 878 - Revise medical marijuana laws for veterans**

**Opening Statement:**

08:13:18 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 878, Revise medical marijuana laws for veterans.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:16:07 Kelly Ackerman, Montana Veteran Affairs Division

08:16:32 Travis Pilon, Department of Revenue

08:16:55 Cindy Backeverg, Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee:**

08:17:25 Rep. Denise Baum

08:19:32 Rep. Ed Stafman

08:21:56 Rep. Linda Reksten

08:24:37 Rep. Marta Bertoglio

08:25:30 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

08:27:06 Chair Julie Dooling

08:29:40 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

08:30:33 Rep. Denise Baum

08:32:51 Chair Julie Dooling

08:34:50 Vice Chair Bob Phalen

08:36:16 Rep. Frank Smith

08:36:59 Rep. Ed Stafman

08:40:35 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

08:43:18 Rep. Gregory Frazer

08:44:13 Rep. Linda Reksten

08:46:11 Rep. Michael Yakawich

08:47:31 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

08:48:01 Chair Julie Dooling

**Closing Statement:**

08:50:12 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 878.

08:54:28 Rep. Green has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 892 - Prohibit double voting**

**Opening Statement:**

08:54:09 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 892, Prohibit double voting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:56:22 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:57:00 Keegan Medrano, Montana American Civil Liberties Union

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:58:23 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders

**Questions from Committee:**

08:58:45 Rep. Ed Stafman

09:02:57 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

09:04:58 Rep. Michael Yakawich

09:06:19 Rep. Denise Baum

**Closing Statement:**

09:10:07 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 892.

**HEARING ON HB 893 - Create the office of public records ombudsman & advisory council**

**Opening Statement:**

09:11:39 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 893, Create the office of public records ombudsman & advisory council.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230329STHa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:23:14 Evan Barrett, Friends of the Montana Constitution

[EXHIBIT\(230329STHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230329STHa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230329STHa4\)](#)

09:29:30 Matthew Passini, Montana Environmental Information Center

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:32:04 Rep. Paul Green

09:36:02 Rep. Linda Reksten

09:38:32 Chair Julie Dooling

**Closing Statement:**

09:40:51 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 893.

**HEARING ON HB 905 - Generally revise election laws creating an election integrity team**

**Opening Statement:**

09:41:37 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HB 905, Generally revise election laws creating an election integrity team.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:45:11 Keegan Medrano, Montana American Civil Liberties Union  
09:48:13 Steve Turkiewicz, Secure Democracy USA  
09:52:26 Mindy Ferrell, Private Citizen  
09:56:49 Regina Plettenberg, Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:59:11 Dana Corson, Secretary of State's Office

**Questions from Committee:**

09:59:36 Rep. Michael Yakawich  
10:02:51 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
10:04:17 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum  
10:06:30 Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
10:08:05 Rep. Denise Baum  
10:11:11 Vice Chair Bob Phalen  
10:13:22 Rep. Tony Brockman  
10:15:46 Rep. Denise Baum  
10:17:11 Chair Julie Dooling

**Closing Statement:**

10:17:50 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, closed the hearing on HB 905.  
  
10:26:48 **Recessed**  
  
11:05:51 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 951 - Make the round dance the official state dance of  
Montana**

11:05:59 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 951 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:06:30 Rep. Linda Reksten

11:07:07 Rep. Frank Smith

11:10:00 Rep. Denise Baum

11:05:59 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Parry, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Reksten, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 878 - Revise medical marijuana laws for veterans**

11:10:49 **Motion:** Rep. Tony Brockman moved that **HB 878 DO PASS.**

11:11:18 **Motion:** Rep. Tony Brockman moved that **HB 878 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:14:09 Rebecca Power

11:11:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:23:06 **Motion:** Rep. Tony Brockman moved that **HB 878 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:23:56 Rebecca Power

11:24:08 Chair Julie Dooling

11:24:12 Rebecca Power

11:23:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:25:32 **Motion:** Rep. Tony Brockman moved that **HB 878 DO NOT PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:26:16 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

11:25:32 **Vote:** Motion failed 13 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Brockman, Rep. Frazer, Rep. Green, Rep. Parry, Rep. Sprunger, voting yes.

11:27:47 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 878 TO TABLE.**

11:27:47 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:17:58 **Recessed**

11:22:40 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 892 - Prohibit double voting**

11:28:25 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 892 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:28:36 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:30:57 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

11:31:00 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Kelly Kortum moved that **HB 892 TO TABLE.**

11:31:00 **Vote:** Substitute Motion failed 11 - 7 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Smith, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, Rep. Wirth, voting yes.  
Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

11:32:23 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 892 DO PASS.**

11:32:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 5 by voice vote with Rep. Baum, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Stafman, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.  
Rep. Running Wolf, Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 893 - Create the office of public records ombudsman & advisory council**

11:33:42 **Motion:** Rep. Ed Stafman moved that **HB 893 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:34:06 Rep. Linda Reksten

11:34:59 Chair Julie Dooling

11:35:06 Vice Chair Kelly Kortum

11:35:21 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:36:20 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

11:37:00 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:37:18 Rep. Linda Reksten

11:37:47 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:39:08 Chair Julie Dooling

11:39:24 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

11:39:34 Rep. Ed Stafman

11:40:35 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

11:40:52 Chair Julie Dooling

11:41:02 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

11:41:05 **Motion:** Rep. Courtenay Sprunger moved that **HB 893 BE AMENDED.**

11:41:05 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Brockman, Rep. Green, voting no.

11:42:47 **Motion:** Rep. Ed Stafman moved that **HB 893 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

11:42:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 6 by voice vote with Rep. Bertoglio, Rep. Brockman, Rep. Dooling, Rep. Green, Rep. Phalen, Rep. Wirth, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 905 - Generally revise election laws creating an election integrity team**

11:44:42 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 905 DO PASS.**

11:45:01 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Phalen moved that **HB 905 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:45:15 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

11:45:18 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Kenneth Walsh moved that **HB 905 TO TABLE.**

11:45:18 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 16 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Phalen, Rep. Sprunger, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:47:28

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Heather Kellum, Secretary

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

