

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Joshua Kassmier-R, on April 13, 2023 at 4:05 PM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marty Malone, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)  
Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)  
Rep. Bob Carter (D)  
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Paul Green (R)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Staff Present:** Andria Hardin, Research Analyst  
Rose Harmon, Secretary  
Loran Nelson, 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:

SB 561 04/06/2023

Executive Action:

HR 6 DO PASS

SB 37  
SB 71  
SB 78  
SB 217  
SB 375  
SB 447 TO TABLE  
SB 462  
SJ 9  
SJ 13  
SB 561

**HEARING ON SB 561 - Create veterinary retail facility permits**

**Opening Statement:**

16:07:13 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB 561, Create veterinary retail facility permits.

**Discussion:**

16:09:38 Rep. Greg Kmetz joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:12:16 Rep. Brandon Ler, Representative HD 35

16:14:23 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen, Representative HD 34

16:16:04 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrower's Association (MSGA)

16:17:12 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:18:25 Jerry Singleton, Self

16:22:20 Rep. Casey Knudsen joined the meeting.

16:23:02 Nathan Shackelford, Self

16:25:19 Rep. Tony Brockman joined the meeting.

16:27:31 Rep. Katie Sullivan joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:28:15 Stuart Doggett, Executive Director, Montana Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA)

16:29:47 Dr. Jeanne Rankin, Self as Veterinary Rancher

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:34:25 Marcie Bough, Executive Officer, Board of Pharmacy, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

16:34:36 Eric Strauss, Administrator, Employment Standards Division, Montana  
Department of Labor and Industry

16:35:09 Dr. Linda Kauffman, Self as Mixed Animal Practitioner

**Questions from Committee:**

16:36:23 Rep. Casey Knudsen

16:36:38 Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R

16:36:47 Marcie Bough, DLI

16:40:20 Rep. Casey Knudsen

16:40:46 Marcie Bough, DLI

16:41:25 Rep. Brad Barker

16:41:41 Marcie Bough, DLI

16:42:35 Rep. Bob Carter

16:43:43 Marcie Bough, DLI

16:45:13 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:45:45 Rep. Brandon Ler, (R) HD 35

16:46:01 Rep. Tony Brockman left the meeting.

16:46:07 Vice Chair Marty Malone

16:46:35 Dr. Linda Kauffman, Veterinarian

16:48:25 Vice Chair Dave Fern left the meeting.

16:49:04 Vice Chair Marty Malone

16:49:28 Dr. Jeanne Rankin, Veterinarian

16:50:35 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

16:50:56 Marcie Bough, DLI

16:51:48 Rep. James Bergstrom

16:52:02 Marcie Bough, DLI

**Closing Statement:**

16:52:32 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, closed the hearing on SB 561.

**Discussion:**

16:53:13 Rep. Casey Knudsen left the meeting.

17:06:00 Vice Chair Dave Fern joined the meeting.

16:59:35 **Recessed**

17:00:04 Rep. Kmetz has left

17:17:51 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HR 6 - Joint resolution supporting country of origin labeling**

17:18:10 **Motion:** Rep. James Bergstrom moved that **HR 6 DO PASS.**

17:18:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 37 - Update definitions for meat inspection of non-amenable species**

17:19:40 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 37 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:19:40 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:19:40 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Julie Dooling

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 71 - Generally revise milk control policies**

17:21:06 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 71 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:21:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:21:06 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Kenneth Walsh

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 78 - Revise reimbursement values for registered livestock**

17:22:02 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 78 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

17:22:28 Rep. Katie Sullivan

17:23:00 Rep. Bob Carter  
17:23:11 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
17:22:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
17:22:02 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Marty Malone

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 217 - Revise rangeland improvement loan state special revenue account**

17:24:36 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 217 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
17:24:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
17:24:36 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. James Bergstrom

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 375 - Remove notice for killing animals running at large**

17:25:38 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 375 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
17:25:59 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 375 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:26:16 Rep. Bob Carter  
17:25:59 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:27:12 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 375 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:27:35 Rep. Frank Smith  
17:29:44 Rep. Julie Dooling  
17:30:43 Rep. James Bergstrom  
17:31:47 Rep. Bob Carter  
17:32:12 Rep. Frank Smith  
17:27:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 16 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Dooling, Rep. Smith, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.  
17:27:12 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Paul Green

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 447 - Provide for a recreation and tourism promotion act**

17:33:42 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 447 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

- 17:34:15 Rep. Zack Wirth
- 17:35:14 **Substitute Motion:** Vice Chair Marty Malone moved that **SB 447 TO TABLE.**
- 17:35:14 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 462 - Prioritize ag irrigation in RRGL**

- 17:36:54 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 462 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

- 17:36:22 Vice Chair Marty Malone
- 17:39:04 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 462 TO TABLE.**
- 17:39:04 **Vote:** Substitute Motion failed 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Anderson, Rep. Carter, Rep. Fern, Rep. Romano, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Weatherwax, voting yes.  
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy
- 17:39:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Marty Malone moved that **SB 462 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

- 17:39:58 Rep. Julie Dooling
- 17:39:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 14 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Fern, Rep. Romano, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.  
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy
- 17:39:36 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Kenneth Walsh

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 9 - Joint resolution establishing soil health week and day**

- 17:42:02 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SJ 9 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 17:42:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Marty Malone moved that **SJ 9 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:43:02 Chair Joshua Kassmier
- 17:42:31 **Vote:** Motion carried 18 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Barker, voting no.
- 17:43:54 **Motion:** Rep. Melissa Romano moved that **SJ 9 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

- 17:45:18 Rep. Bob Carter
- 17:45:25 Rep. Melissa Romano

- 17:43:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 17:46:18 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SJ 9 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
- 17:46:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 17 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Barker, Rep. Dooling, voting no.
- 17:46:18 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Dave Fern

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 13 - Resolution for rangeland appreciation month**

- 17:47:39 **Motion:** Rep. James Bergstrom moved that **SJ 13 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 17:47:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 17:47:39 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. James Bergstrom

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 561 - Create veterinary retail facility permits**

- 17:48:55 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 561 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 17:49:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Marty Malone moved that **SB 561 BE AMENDED.**
- 17:49:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 17:50:00 **Motion:** Rep. Bob Carter moved that **SB 561 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

- 17:50:21 Vice Chair Dave Fern
- 17:50:45 Vice Chair Marty Malone
- 17:51:03 Rep. Fred Anderson
- 17:51:37 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
- 17:50:00 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 17:50:00 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Brandon Ler

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:53:13

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Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230413AGHaad\)](#)