

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Edward Buttrey-R, on April 14, 2023 at 8:01 AM, in 172

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Edward Buttrey, Chair (R)  
Rep. Derek Harvey, Vice Chair (D)  
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)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

**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:

SB 516 04/11/2023

SB 535 04/06/2023

SB 538 04/06/2023

SB 543 04/06/2023

Executive Action:

SB 59  
SB 531 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED

**HEARING ON SB 535 - Revise lottery laws relating to the board of horseracing**

**Opening Statement:**

08:03:18 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, opened the hearing on SB 535, Revise lottery laws relating to the board of horseracing.

**Discussion:**

08:03:20 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:03:52 Scott Sales

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:04:54 Gary Koepplin

08:05:20 John Hayes

**Questions from Committee:**

08:06:01 Chair Edward Buttrey

**Closing Statement:**

08:07:00 Sen. Ryan Lynch (D), SD 76, closed the hearing on SB 535.

**Discussion:**

08:07:03 Sen. Ryan Lynch-D

**HEARING ON SB 516 - Provide for the Preserving Fertility Act**

**Opening Statement:**

08:07:35 Sen. Jen Gross (D), SD 25, opened the hearing on SB 516, Provide for the Preserving Fertility Act.

**Discussion:**

08:07:37 Sen. Jen Gross-D

08:12:13 Rep. Katie Zolnikov joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:13:00 Katie Beall

08:18:31 Pat Flowers

08:21:08 Becky Franks

[EXHIBIT\(230414BUHa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230414BUHa2\)](#)

08:27:09 Carly Vonheeler

08:29:09 Jeff Shirley

08:31:14 Blake Underriner

08:32:54 Hillary Waldeisen

08:36:06 Lucy Waldeisen

08:38:43 Ed Beall

08:41:14 Sally Beall

08:42:16 Heather O'Hara

08:43:22 Aimee Grmoljez

[EXHIBIT\(230414BUHa3\)](#)

08:45:41 Bobbie Will

08:46:24 Kristen Page-Nei

08:47:46 Adam Zarrin

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:48:35 Frank Cote  
08:48:48 John Doran  
08:48:57 Jackie Jones  
08:49:12 Mary Lemieux

**Questions from Committee:**

08:49:37 Rep. Katie Sullivan  
08:50:57 Rep. Steve Gunderson  
08:52:53 Rep. Ron Marshall  
08:53:48 Rep. Steve Gist  
08:57:11 Rep. Steven Galloway  
08:57:51 Rep. Katie Sullivan

**Closing Statement:**

09:00:14 Sen. Jen Gross (D), SD 25, closed the hearing on SB 516.

**Discussion:**

09:00:18 Sen. Jen Gross-D

09:05:10 **Recessed**

09:12:11 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON SB 538 - Generally revise marijuana laws**

**Opening Statement:**

09:12:26 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 538, Generally revise marijuana laws.

**Discussion:**

09:12:28 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:14:39 Darcie Wiebe

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:16:04 Erin Ducharme

**Questions from Committee:**

09:16:32 Rep. Greg Oblander

09:17:59 Rep. James Bergstrom

09:18:49 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

09:20:54 Rep. James Bergstrom

09:22:15 Rep. Steven Galloway

09:23:30 Vice Chair Derek Harvey

**Closing Statement:**

09:25:07 Sen. Chris Friedel (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 538.

**Discussion:**

09:25:11 Sen. Chris Friedel-R

**HEARING ON SB 543 - Revise alcohol laws relating to off-premises beer and wine licenses and delivery**

**Opening Statement:**

09:26:55 Sen. Ellie Boldman (D), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 543, Revise alcohol laws relating to off-premises beer and wine licenses and delivery.

**Discussion:**

09:26:57 Sen. Ellie Boldman-D

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:31:20 John Iverson

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:32:38 Dacia English

**Questions from Committee:**

09:33:21 Chair Edward Buttrey

09:36:15 Rep. Steve Gist

09:37:58 Chair Edward Buttrey

**Closing Statement:**

09:38:29 Sen. Ellie Boldman (D), SD 45, closed the hearing on SB 543.

**Discussion:**

09:38:32 Sen. Ellie Boldman-D

09:40:25 **Recessed**

10:40:42 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 59 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol**

10:40:59 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 59 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:41:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 59 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

10:43:31 Rep. Steven Galloway

10:45:53 Rep. Nelly Nicol

10:46:37 Rep. Bob Carter

10:41:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:47:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 59 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

10:47:55 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:47:55 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Edward Buttrey

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 531 - Generally review broadband deployment laws**

10:48:47 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 531 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:49:05 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 531 BE AMENDED.**

10:49:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:50:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kerri Seekins-Crowe moved that **SB 531 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

10:50:31 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Carter, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Lynch, Rep. Matthews, Rep. Sullivan, Rep. Zolnikov, voting no.  
Rep. Matthews, By Proxy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:52:44

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Macy McCauley, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230414BUHaad\)](#)