

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson-R, on April 17, 2023 at 6:43 PM, in Room 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Steve Gist, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Staff Present: LJ Jennings, Secretary
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst
John Olson, 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:

Executive Action:

SB 334
SB 402 TO TABLE
SB 557
HB 971 DO PASS AS AMENDED

18:43:50 **Committee Discussion:** Chair Gunderson

18:44:13 Rep. Jill Cohenour

18:44:26 Joe Kolman

18:47:29 Rep. Marty Malone

18:47:52 Joe Kolman

18:49:17 Rep. Jill Cohenour

18:49:30 Joe Kolman

18:50:12 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

18:50:20 Chair Steve Gunderson

18:50:25 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

18:50:30 Chair Steve Gunderson

18:50:39 Rep. Tom France

18:50:58 Joe Kolman

18:51:00 Rep. Tom France

18:51:04 Joe Kolman

18:51:13 Rep. Tom France

18:51:23 Joe Kolman

18:52:07 Rep. Tom France

18:52:20 Rep. Jill Cohenour

18:53:14 Rep. Jonathan Karlen

18:53:48 Chair Steve Gunderson

18:54:03 Rep. Jill Cohenour

18:54:13 Joe Kolman
18:55:00 Chair Steve Gunderson
18:55:10 **Recessed**
19:11:30 Rep. Hinkle has arrived
19:14:30 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 334 - Revise petroleum storage tank cleanup definitions

19:14:39 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 334 BE CONCURRED IN.**
Discussion:
19:15:05 Rep. Jill Cohenour
19:14:47 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
19:14:39 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Ross Fitzgerald

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 402 - Allow for firefighter hazard pay

19:16:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 402 BE CONCURRED IN.**
Discussion:
19:16:37 Vice Chair Steve Gist
19:17:01 Rep. J. Hinkle
19:18:42 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **SB 402 TO TABLE.**
Discussion:
19:18:44 Rep. Jill Cohenour
19:18:55 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
19:19:42 Rep. Jonathan Karlen
19:20:37 Rep. Jill Cohenour
19:22:21 Vice Chair Steve Gist
19:26:25 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Cohenour, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 557 - Revise MEPA relating to litigation

19:26:37 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 557 BE CONCURRED IN.**

19:27:18 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 557 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

19:27:29 Rep. Jill Cohenour

19:28:46 Rep. Tom France

19:29:56 Vice Chair Steve Gist

19:27:40 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 3 by voice vote with Rep. Cohenour, Rep. Marler, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

19:32:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **SB 557 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

19:32:39 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

19:33:35 Rep. J. Hinkle

19:31:58 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Cohenour, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Malone, Rep. Marler, Rep. Walsh, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

19:32:23 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Gary Parry

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 971 - Revise environmental policy act

19:35:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **HB 971 DO PASS.**

19:35:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **HB 971 BE AMENDED.**

19:35:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Cohenour, Rep. France, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

19:37:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Steve Gist moved that **HB 971 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

19:37:40 Rep. Jill Cohenour

19:37:47 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

19:38:14 Rep. Gary Parry

19:39:23 Rep. Jill Cohenour

19:41:27 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

19:42:24 Rep. Marty Malone
19:43:00 Rep. Tom France
19:45:21 Vice Chair Steve Gist
19:46:55 Chair Steve Gunderson
19:37:07 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 5 by roll call vote with Rep. Cohenour, Rep. France,
Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Rep. Weatherwax, voting no.
Rep. Weatherwax, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 19:50:32

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230417NAHbad\)](#)