

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

Call to Order: Chair Larry Brewster-R, on April 21, 2023 at 12:21 PM, in 472

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Larry Brewster, Chair (R)
Rep. Marta Bertoglio, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway (R)
Rep. Steve Gist (R)
Rep. Scot Kerns (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Steve Gunderson (R)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R)

Staff Present: Heather Kellum, Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, 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:

HJ 34 04/21/2023
HJ 35 04/21/2023
HJ 23 04/20/2023

Executive Action:

HJ 23 DO PASS
HJ 34 DO PASS
HJ 35 DO PASS
SB 528

12:24:07 Rep. Gunderson has arrived

12:24:22 Rep. Zolnikov has arrived

HEARING ON HJ 23 - Interim study of disaster and emergency service recovery response

Opening Statement:

12:22:55 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HJ 23, Interim study of disaster and emergency service recovery response.

Proponent Testimony:

12:25:33 Karen Alley, Montana Association of Counties

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

12:26:26 Rep. Steven Galloway

12:27:35 Rep. Steve Gist

12:28:44 Rep. Scot Kerns

12:30:42 Rep. Mark Thane

12:31:06 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour

Closing Statement:

12:31:37 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, closed the hearing on HJ 23.

12:33:15 **Recessed**

15:15:57 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HJ 34 - Interim study of short term rentals

Opening Statement:

15:16:06 Rep. Sherry Essmann (R), HD 52, opened the hearing on HJ 34, Interim study of short term rentals.

Proponent Testimony:

15:18:16 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:19:05 Ann Schwend, Montana Environmental Information Center

15:21:08 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

15:21:32 Lance FourStar, Montana American Indian Caucus

15:22:32 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings

15:22:50 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:23:24 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

Questions from Committee:

15:24:00 Point of Order

15:24:30 Rep. Steven Galloway

15:25:43 Rep. Sherry Essmann-R

15:26:13 Rep. Steve Gist

15:26:31 Rep. Sherry Essmann-R

15:26:40 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

15:28:57 Rep. Sherry Essmann-R

Closing Statement:

15:29:35 Rep. Sherry Essmann (R), HD 52, closed the hearing on HJ 34.

HEARING ON HJ 35 - Interim study of the local permitting process

Opening Statement:

15:30:08 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HJ 35, Interim study of the local permitting process.

Proponent Testimony:

15:32:21 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors

15:33:10 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings

15:34:01 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish

15:34:24 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:35:35 Rep. Steve Gunderson

15:35:38 Jason Rittle

15:35:47 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

15:36:49 Rep. Steven Galloway-R

Closing Statement:

15:38:16 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HJ 35.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 23 - Interim study of disaster and emergency service recovery response

15:40:38 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jill Cohenour moved that **HJ 23 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:40:58 Rep. Steven Galloway

15:42:38 Rep. Steve Gunderson

15:43:45 Rep. Steve Gist
15:44:45 Rep. Sherry Essmann
15:46:41 Rep. Katie Zolnikov
15:47:24 Rep. Linda Reksten
15:48:59 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
15:49:46 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour
15:40:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Kerns, voting no.
Rep. Kerns, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 34 - Interim study of short term rentals

15:50:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jill Cohenour moved that **HJ 34 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:51:07 Rep. Sherry Essmann
15:51:25 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour
15:52:40 Rep. Steve Gist
15:53:09 Rep. Steven Galloway
15:53:52 Rep. Mark Thane
15:50:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 35 - Interim study of the local permitting process

15:54:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jill Cohenour moved that **HJ 35 DO PASS.**
15:54:50 **Vote:** Motion carried 15 - 1 by voice vote with Rep. Kortum, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 528 - Revise zoning laws related to ADUs

15:56:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jill Cohenour moved that **SB 528 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

Discussion:

15:56:39 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour
15:56:58 Rep. Steven Galloway
15:56:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Reksten, voting no.

15:58:29 **Motion:** Vice Chair Jill Cohenour moved that **SB 528 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:58:37 Rep. Katie Zolnikov

15:59:02 Rep. Linda Reksten

15:59:29 Rep. Steven Galloway

15:59:42 Laura Sankey Keip

16:02:05 Rep. Steven Galloway

16:02:43 Vice Chair Jill Cohenour

16:03:51 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger

15:58:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Essmann, Rep. Galloway, Rep. Gist, Rep. Gunderson, Rep. Kerns, Rep. Reksten, Rep. Sprunger, voting no.
Rep. Kerns, By Proxy

15:58:29 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Katie Zolnikov

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:06:37

Heather Kellum, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230421LOHaad\)](#)