

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Amy Regier-R, on April 24, 2023 at 9:01 AM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. SJ Howell (D)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)  
Rep. Laura Smith (D)  
Rep. Zoey Zephyr (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)

**Staff Present:** Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary  
Rachel Weiss, 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 24 04/20/2023

HJ 30 04/20/2023

Executive Action:

SB 160 TO TABLE  
SB 534  
HJ 17 DO PASS

**HEARING ON HJ 24 - Interim study of prisons**

**Opening Statement:**

09:02:11 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HJ 24, Interim study of prisons.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:04:23 Rep. SJ Howell

09:05:09 Rep. Brad Barker-R

09:05:56 Rep. Laura Smith

09:06:14 Rep. Brad Barker-R

09:07:40 Rep. Neil Duram

09:07:55 Rep. Jodee Etchart joined the meeting.

09:09:28 Rep. Brad Barker-R

**Closing Statement:**

09:09:49 Rep. Brad Barker (R), HD 58, closed the hearing on HJ 24.

09:10:21 **Recessed**

09:36:41 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 160 - Generally revise drug and human trafficking laws**

09:36:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 160 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:37:15 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 160 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:40:38 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

09:37:15 **Vote:** Motion failed 15 - 4 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Regier, voting yes.

09:41:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 160 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

09:41:59 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

09:41:50 **Vote:** Motion failed 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Deming, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Kmetz, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Regier, Rep. Sheldon-Galloway, voting yes.

09:43:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 160 TO TABLE.**

09:43:28 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:39:36 Rep. France has left

09:39:53 Rep. Etchart has arrived

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 534 - Constitutional amendment on redistricting**

09:43:39 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 534 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:44:25 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **SB 534 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:45:01 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

09:46:20 Rep. Jennifer Carlson

09:44:25 **Vote:** Motion failed 11 - 8 by roll call vote with Rep. Etchart, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Hinkle, Rep. Kmetz, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Ler, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Regier, voting yes.

09:47:47 **Motion:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle moved that **SB 534 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:48:06 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

- 09:47:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no. Rep. France, By Proxy
- 09:49:24 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **SB 534 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
- 09:49:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Rusk, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no. Rep. France, By Proxy
- 09:49:24 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 17 - Interim study of facial recognition technology**

- 09:50:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Brandon Ler moved that **HJ 17 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**
- 09:50:57 Rep. Zoey Zephyr
- 09:51:34 Rep. Casey Knudsen
- 09:50:32 **Vote:** Motion carried 13 - 6 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. France, Rep. Hawk, Rep. Howell, Rep. Smith, Rep. Zephyr, voting no. Rep. France, By Proxy

**HEARING ON HJ 30 - Study of criminal fines, fees, and forfeitures**

**Opening Statement:**

- 09:53:44 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HJ 30, Study of criminal fines, fees, and forfeitures.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

- 09:55:43 Chair Amy Regier

**Closing Statement:**

09:55:38

Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HJ 30.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 09:56:34

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Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230424JUHaad\)](#)