

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on January 06, 2023 at 1:56 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Jason Small (R)  
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

**Staff Present:** Jason Mohr, Research Analyst  
Jodi Mott, Secretary

**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 42 01/03/2023

SB 32 01/04/2023

Executive Action:

13:57:49

**Committee Discussion:**

13:56:31 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
13:58:04 Jason Mohr Staff Attorney  
13:59:48 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
14:00:00 Sen. Mike Lang  
14:00:01 **Motion:** Motion to Pass Committee Rules  
14:00:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
14:01:13 Recessed  
14:01:14 Sen. Brown has left  
14:01:15 Sen. Lynch has left  
14:01:16 Sen. Small has left  
14:01:17 Sen. Usher has left  
14:35:00 Reconvened

**HEARING ON SB 32 - Revising pipeline safety regulation penalties**

**Opening Statement:**

14:35:30 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 32, Revising pipeline safety regulation penalties.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230106NASa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

14:40:37 James Brown, Public Service Commission

[EXHIBIT\(230106NASa2\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

14:43:40 Sen. Pat Flowers  
14:44:10 James Brown PSC  
14:44:52 Sen. Bruce Gillespie  
14:45:30 James Brown PSC  
14:47:19 Sen. Walt Sales  
14:47:50 James Brown PSC  
14:47:57 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

14:48:04 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SB 32.

**HEARING ON SB 42 - Revise laws related to easements on state lands**

**Opening Statement:**

15:01:10 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB 42, Revise laws related to easements on state lands.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:03:18 Ryan Weiss, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
(DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(230106NASa3\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:07:26 Sen. Mike Lang  
15:07:45 Ryan Weiss DNRC  
15:08:25 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:08:38 Ryan Weiss DNRC  
15:09:14 Sen. Walt Sales  
15:09:26 Ryan Weiss DNRC  
15:10:30 Sen. Willis Curdy  
15:11:04 Ryan Weiss DNRC  
15:11:17 Sen. Willis Curdy  
15:11:36 Ryan Weiss DNRC

**Closing Statement:**

15:11:56 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, closed the hearing on SB 42.

**Discussion:**

13:57:49  
14:00:01 Motion to Pass Committee Rules  
14:01:13 Recessed  
14:01:14 Sen. Brown has left  
14:01:15 Sen. Lynch has left

14:01:16 Sen. Small has left  
14:01:17 Sen. Usher has left  
14:35:00 Reconvened

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:13:22

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Jodi Mott, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230106NASaad\)](#)