

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: Chair Sen. John Esp-R, on January 23, 2023 at 4:38 PM, in 317

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. John Esp, Chair (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Carl Glimm, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Tom McGillvray (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

Staff Present: Julie Johnson, Research Analyst
Joe Triem, Fiscal Analyst
Cy Walsh, 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 3 01/20/2023
SB 21 01/20/2023
SB 58 01/20/2023
SB 70 01/20/2023

SB 95 01/20/2023
Executive Action:

SB 3 DO PASS
SB 21 DO PASS
SB 58 DO PASS

HEARING ON SB 21 - Revise laws related to alcohol fingerprint requirements

Opening Statement:

16:40:17 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 21, Revise laws related to alcohol fingerprint requirements.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:42:26 Sen. Janet Ellis

16:43:09 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick-R

Closing Statement:

16:43:30 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 21.

HEARING ON SB 58 - Increase landowner payment cap for block management

Opening Statement:

16:43:49 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB 58, Increase landowner payment cap for block management.

Proponent Testimony:

16:44:59 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MBHA)

16:46:51 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

16:47:40 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:48:33 Lena Havron, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:49:10 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

16:49:44 Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R

16:50:55 Sen. John Esp

16:51:12 Lena Havron, FWP

16:51:40 Sen. Tom McGillvray

16:52:06 Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R

Closing Statement:

16:52:43 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, closed the hearing on SB 58.

HEARING ON SB 70 - Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

Opening Statement:

16:53:10 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 70, Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program.

Proponent Testimony:

16:57:49 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

16:58:35 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:01:02 Jay Phillips, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

17:01:35 Sen. Tom McGillvray

17:02:18 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D

17:02:22 Sen. Bogner has arrived

17:02:52 Sen. Carl Glimm

17:03:14 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D

17:03:36 Jay Phillips, OPI

17:04:28 Sen. Carl Glimm

17:05:07 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D

17:05:37 Sen. Flowers has arrived

17:07:46 Sen. John Esp

17:07:56 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D

17:08:00 Sen. John Esp

17:08:48 Jay Phillips, OPI

17:09:26 Sen. Cuffe has arrived

17:09:37 Sen. Welborn has arrived

17:09:46 Sen. John Esp

17:09:58 Sen. Shannon O'Brien-D

Closing Statement:

17:10:02 Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D), SD 46, closed the hearing on SB 70.

HEARING ON SB 95 - Generally revise theft laws

Opening Statement:

17:11:35 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 95, Generally revise theft laws.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230123FCSa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230123FCSa2\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

17:14:41 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association (MRA)
17:17:51 Ronda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)
17:20:24 Brian Thompson, Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA)
17:20:54 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Opponent Testimony:

17:21:32 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU-MT)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:10:10 Sen. Lynch has arrived
17:10:25 Sen. Morigeau has arrived
17:24:59 Sen. Ellie Boldman
17:29:09 Sen. Barry Usher-R
17:29:51 Sen. John Esp

Closing Statement:

17:30:17 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 95.

HEARING ON SB 3 - Revise forest land taxation laws

Opening Statement:

17:32:42 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 3, Revise forest land taxation laws.

Proponent Testimony:

17:36:00 Scott Mendenhall, Department of Revenue (DOR)
17:37:48 Bryce Kaatz, Department of Revenue (DOR)
17:39:45 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:40:56 Kory Hofland, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

17:41:34 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SB 3.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 3 - Revise forest land taxation laws

17:47:39 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 3 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:48:24 Sen. Pat Flowers

17:47:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 21 - Revise laws related to alcohol fingerprint requirements

17:49:49 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 21 DO PASS.**

17:49:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 58 - Increase landowner payment cap for block management

17:50:36 **Motion:** Sen. Carl Glimm moved that **SB 58 DO PASS.**

17:50:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:50:59

Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230123FCSaad\)](#)