

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) FISH AND GAME**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R, on January 24, 2023 at 2:31 PM, in 422

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)  
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

**Staff Present:** Casey Pallister, Research Analyst  
Lynnette Sena, 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:

HB 99 01/19/2023  
HB 133 01/19/2023  
HB 162 01/19/2023

Executive Action:

HB 86 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED  
SB 139 TO TABLE  
HB 99 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 133 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 162 BE CONCURRED IN

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 86 - Remove sunset for the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program**

14:33:24 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 86 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

14:33:38 Sen. Bob Brown

14:33:55 Sen. Mike Fox joined the meeting.

14:34:23 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 86 BE AMENDED.**

14:34:23 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:35:25 **Motion:** Sen. Pat Flowers moved that **HB 86 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

14:35:32 Sen. Pat Flowers

14:35:25 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Emrich, voting no.

14:37:37 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 86 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

14:37:37 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:37:37 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bob Brown

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 139 - Revise non resident license laws related to harvesting mountain lions**

14:38:22 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 139 TO TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

14:39:24 Sen. Pat Flowers

14:38:22 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

14:40:44 Recessed

14:59:54 Sen. Noland joined the meeting

15:04:47 Reconvened

**HEARING ON HB 99 - Eliminate reference to non-resident temporary snowmobile permit**

**Opening Statement:**

15:05:00 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 99, Eliminate reference to non-resident temporary snowmobile permit.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:05:56 Hope Stockwell, Administrator of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:07:36 Fred Bailey, President, Montana Snowmobile Association (MSA)

15:08:21 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

15:09:08 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 99.

**HEARING ON HB 133 - Allow nonresident college students to purchase FWP licenses online**

**Opening Statement:**

15:10:05 Rep. Russel Miner (R), HD 19, opened the hearing on HB 133, Allow nonresident college students to purchase FWP licenses online.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:11:11 Ethan Hanley, Associated Students of University of Montana (ASUM)

15:16:31 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:16:51 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:17:46 Kevin Farron, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MTBHA)

15:18:16 Maggie Bell, Montana Associated Students (MAS)

15:18:56 Lorelei Michael-Owens, Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:19:55 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:20:27 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:20:48 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:21:02 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:21:15 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:21:20 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:21:39 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:21:42 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:21:50 Sen. Bob Brown  
15:22:39 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:23:11 Sen. John Fuller  
15:23:32 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:23:41 Sen. John Fuller  
15:23:50 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:24:04 Sen. John Fuller  
15:24:20 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:24:32 Sen. Greg Hertz  
15:24:48 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:25:12 Sen. Greg Hertz  
15:25:48 Kevin Farron, MTBHA  
15:26:40 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:27:09 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:27:35 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:27:51 Emily Cooper, FWP

**Closing Statement:**

15:28:21 Rep. Russel Miner (R), HD 19, closed the hearing on HB 133.

**HEARING ON HB 162 - Revise electronic tag law**

**Opening Statement:**

15:28:55 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 162, Revise electronic tag law.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:30:08 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)  
15:30:57 Kevin Farron, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MTBHA)  
15:32:00 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:33:08 Sen. Willis Curdy  
15:33:36 Emily Cooper, FWP

15:34:22 Sen. Bob Brown  
15:35:05 Emily Cooper, FWP  
15:35:27 Sen. Bob Brown  
15:35:58 Emily Cooper, FWP

**Closing Statement:**

15:36:20 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 162.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 99 - Eliminate reference to non-resident temporary snowmobile permit**

15:37:19 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 99 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
15:37:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
15:37:19 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. John Fuller

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 133 - Allow nonresident college students to purchase FWP licenses online**

15:38:01 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 133 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
**Discussion:**  
15:38:15 Sen. John Fuller  
15:38:57 Sen. Mark Noland-R  
15:39:49 Sen. Bob Brown  
15:40:08 Sen. Greg Hertz  
15:40:45 Sen. Mark Noland-R  
15:41:11 Sen. Steve Hinebauch  
15:41:33 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:42:35 Sen. Steve Hinebauch  
15:38:01 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Fuller, Sen. McClafferty, Sen. Noland, voting no.  
15:38:01 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Hinebauch

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 162 - Revise electronic tag law**

15:44:17 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 162 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
15:44:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
15:44:17 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bob Brown

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:45:25

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Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230124FISaad\)](#)