

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on January 27, 2023 at 8:33 AM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jason Small, Chair (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mark Noland, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Staff Present: Daisy Rhodes, Secretary
Erin Sullivan, Attorney

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 31 01/24/2023
HB 41 01/24/2023
HB 68 01/24/2023
HB 69 01/24/2023

Executive Action:

HB 48 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 142 BE CONCURRED IN
SB 90 TO TABLE
SB 161 TO TABLE
SB 168 DO PASS
SB 177 DO PASS
SR 34 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
SR 36 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
SR 37 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
SR 39 RESOLUTION ADOPTED

SR 41 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
SR 42 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
HB 31 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 41 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 69 BE CONCURRED IN

08:34:10 Sen. Ellsworth has left

HEARING ON HB 41 - Revise laws to expand incumbent worker training eligibility and awards

Opening Statement:

08:34:26 Rep. James Bergstrom (R), HD 30, opened the hearing on HB 41, Revise laws to expand incumbent worker training eligibility and awards.

Proponent Testimony:

08:37:25 Barbara Wagner, Interim Division Administrator, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

08:41:16 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association (MDA)

08:43:06 Charles Robison, Montana Manufacturing Association, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:44:10 Chair Jason Small

08:46:04 Barbara Wagner, DLI

08:46:32 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:47:08 Webb Brown, MDA

08:47:42 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:50:44 Barbara Wagner, DLI

08:52:12 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:52:34 Barbara Wagner, DLI

[EXHIBIT\(230127BUSa1\)](#)

08:53:35 Sen. Walt Sales

08:55:13 Barbra Wagner, DLI

Closing Statement:

08:56:15 Rep. James Bergstrom (R), HD 30, closed the hearing on HB 41.

HEARING ON HB 31 - Generally revise laws related to academic brewers license

Opening Statement:

08:57:45 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 31, Generally revise laws related to academic brewers license.

Proponent Testimony:

08:59:34 Dacia English, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABCD)

09:00:32 Janelle Booth, Government Affairs Director, Montana State University (MSU)

09:01:11 Jamie Sherman, Barley Breeder, Montana State University (MSU)

09:02:30 Erik Somerfeld, Montana Farmers Union

09:04:40 Matt Leow, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

09:06:40 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

09:07:25 Lorelei Michael-Owens, Associated Students of Montana State University (MSU)

09:09:13 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:09:56 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:10:33 Jamie Sherman, MSU

09:12:51 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:13:25 Jamie Sherman, MSU
09:14:54 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:15:24 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R
09:15:54 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:16:59 Dacia English, ABCD
09:17:28 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:18:06 Jamie Sherman, MSU
09:19:19 Chair Jason Small
09:19:44 Janelle Booth, MSU
09:20:16 Sen. Walt Sales
09:21:15 John Iverson, MTA

Closing Statement:

09:21:35 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 31.

HEARING ON HB 68 - Generally revise laws related to beer and wine licenses

Opening Statement:

09:23:59 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 68, Generally revise laws related to beer and wine licenses.

Proponent Testimony:

09:25:10 Becky Schlauch, Administrator, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABC)
09:27:09 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)
09:28:27 Matt Leow, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:29:39 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:29:51 Sen. Walt Sales

09:30:21 John Iverson, MTA

Closing Statement:

09:30:37 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 68.

HEARING ON HB 69 - Generally revise laws related to agency liquor stores

Opening Statement:

09:31:13 Rep. Terry Falk (R), HD 8, opened the hearing on HB 69, Generally revise laws related to agency liquor stores.

Proponent Testimony:

09:32:26 Dacia English, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABCD)

09:33:39 Melissa Shannon, Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana (LSOAM)

09:34:09 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:34:40 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:35:35 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC

09:36:04 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:37:32 Chair Jason Small

Closing Statement:

09:37:55 Rep. Terry Falk (R), HD 8, closed the hearing on HB 69.

09:40:45 **Recessed**

10:03:38 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 48 - Generally revise alcohol laws, including storage depots

10:04:27 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 48 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:04:27 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:04:27 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 142 - Revise laws related to unemployment insurance theft and penalties

10:05:27 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 142 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:05:27 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:05:27 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Willis Curdy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 90 - Allow for certain exceptions related to bottle clubs

10:06:19 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 90 TO TABLE.**

10:06:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 161 - Revise board of investment laws

10:07:22 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 161 TO TABLE.**

10:07:22 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 168 - Revise lottery laws relating to sales agent commissions

10:07:58 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 168 DO PASS.**

10:07:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 177 - Revising allowed local government employer benefits

10:08:40 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 177 DO PASS.**

10:08:40 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 34 - Confirm governor's appointees for the board of private security

10:09:19 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SR 34 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

10:09:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 36 - Confirm governor's appointees for the board of funeral services

10:10:15 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SR 36 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

10:10:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 37 - Confirm governor's appointees for the state electrical board

10:10:57 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SR 37 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

10:11:11 Sen. Walt Sales

10:10:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 39 - Confirm governor's appointees for the board of public accountants

10:11:44 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SR 39 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

10:11:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 41 - Confirm governor's appointees for board of architects and landscape architects

10:12:31 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SR 41 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

10:12:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 42 - Confirm governor's appointees for board of professional engineers/land surveyors

10:13:04 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SR 42 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

10:13:04 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 31 - Generally revise laws related to academic brewers license

10:13:35 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 31 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:13:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:13:35 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Walt Sales

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 41 - Revise laws to expand incumbent worker training eligibility and awards

10:14:10 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 41 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:14:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:14:10 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

Discussion:

10:15:04 **Vice Chair Mark Noland**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 69 - Generally revise laws related to agency liquor stores

10:15:29 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 69 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:15:29 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:15:29 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Terry Vermeire

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:16:18

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230127BUSaad\)](#)