

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: Chair Mike Lang-R, on February 07, 2023 at 3:27 PM, in 335

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Mike Lang, Chair (R)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Susan Webber, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)

Staff Present: Grace Gibney, Secretary
Trevor Graff, Research Analyst
Heather Vande-Sandt, 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 100 01/31/2023
HB 104 01/31/2023
SB 217 02/06/2023
SJ 9 02/06/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 100 - Require livestock containment for required animal disease testing

Opening Statement:

15:29:13 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 100, Require livestock containment for required animal disease testing.

Proponent Testimony:

15:32:57 Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock
15:34:11 Rocky Forseth, Montana Stock Growers Association
15:35:39 Becky Stuart, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
15:37:16 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Opponent Testimony:

15:37:55 Jeanne Rankin,, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:40:25 Sen. Wendy McKamey
15:41:00 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R
15:43:06 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie
15:44:09 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock
15:44:25 Vice Chair Susan Webber
15:45:19 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R
15:45:21 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock
15:46:14 Chair Mike Lang
15:48:02 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock

15:51:25 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie
15:51:41 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock
15:52:05 Sen. Wendy McKamey
15:53:16 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock
15:54:20 Chair Mike Lang
15:54:21 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock
15:55:43 Vice Chair Susan Webber
15:56:28 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock
15:57:53 Chair Mike Lang
15:58:37 Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Department of Livestock

Closing Statement:

15:58:55 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 100.

HEARING ON HB 104 - Revise aerial hunting requirements

Opening Statement:

15:59:33 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on HB 104, Revise aerial hunting requirements.

Proponent Testimony:

16:00:40 Mike Honeycutt, Montana Department of Livestock
16:03:26 Keni Reese, Montana Stock Growers Association
16:04:09 Gary Heibertshausen, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Opponent Testimony:

16:07:29 Marc Cooke, Wolves For The Rockies
16:07:40 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:10:19 Chair Mike Lang
16:10:53 Gary Heibertshausen, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
16:12:17 Sen. Wendy McKamey
16:12:49 Rep. Brandon Ler
16:13:50 Sen. Wendy McKamey
16:14:08 Mike Honeycutt, Montana Department of Livestock
16:15:48 Vice Chair Susan Webber
16:16:11 Mike Honeycutt, Montana Department of Livestock
16:17:15 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie
16:17:25 Marc Cooke, Wolves of The Rockies

Closing Statement:

16:20:33 Sen. Becky Beard (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on HB 104.

HEARING ON SB 217 - Revise rangeland improvement loan state special revenue account

Opening Statement:

16:21:17 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 217, Revise rangeland improvement loan state special revenue account.

Proponent Testimony:

16:22:37 Mark Bostrum, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
16:24:24 Colton Coffee, Montana Stock Growers Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:25:39 Sen. Wendy McKamey

16:25:51 Mark Bostrum, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

16:26:15 Chair Mike Lang

16:26:48 Mark Bostrum, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

16:27:46 Vice Chair Susan Webber

16:27:59 Mark Bostrum, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Closing Statement:

16:29:00 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, closed the hearing on SB 217.

HEARING ON SJ 9 - Joint resolution establishing soil health week and day

Opening Statement:

16:29:42 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SJ 9, Joint resolution establishing soil health week and day.

Proponent Testimony:

16:30:57 Steve Charter, self

16:33:44 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union

16:34:46 Peter Dudley, Montana Audubon

16:36:03 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture

16:36:48 Eleanor Ross, Helping Hands Food Bank

16:38:34 Carrie Holst, Yellowstone Valley Food Hub

16:40:41 Sue Beug, Northern Plains Resource Council

16:43:10 Stephanie Potts, Gallatin Valley Farm To School

16:46:31 Jim Amonette, self

16:48:53 Ivan Thrane, self

16:50:53 Tony Hartshorn, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

16:57:57 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, closed the hearing on SJ 9.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:00:24

Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230207AGSaad\)](#)