

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Small-R, on February 10, 2023 at 8:30 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. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Walt Sales (R)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
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:

SB 243 02/06/2023

SB 263 02/06/2023

SB 264 02/06/2023

Executive Action:

SB 22 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 165 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 178 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 211 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 216 DO PASS  
SB 223 TO TABLE  
SB 236 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 244 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 270 DO PASS AS AMENDED  
SB 263 DO PASS

**HEARING ON SB 263 - Allow airport authorities to enter into certain contracts for 50 years**

**Opening Statement:**

08:31:26 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 263, Allow airport authorities to enter into certain contracts for 50 years.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:32:28 Tom Ebzery, Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA)

08:34:57 Ian McKay, Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA)

08:38:05 Ross Marty, Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA) and the Helena Regional Airport

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:40:31 Tim Conway, Director of Aeronautics, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:40:57 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:42:15 Tom Ebzery, MAMA

08:42:52 Sen. Walt Sales

08:43:17 Ian McKay, MAMA

08:44:01 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:47:09 Ross Marty, MAMA

08:47:45 Sen. Walt Sales

08:48:08 Ross Marty, MAMA

**Closing Statement:**

08:49:35 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 263.

**HEARING ON SB 264 - Revise airport all-beverage license laws**

**Opening Statement:**

08:50:24 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 264, Revise airport all-beverage license laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:51:26 Tom Ebzery, Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA)

08:54:16 Ian McKay, Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA)

08:57:07 Ross Marty, Montana Airport Managers Association (MAMA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:59:21 Tim Conway, Director of Aeronautics, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

08:59:41 Becky Schlauch, Alcohol and Beverage Control Commission, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR-ABC)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:00:11 Chair Jason Small

09:00:31 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC

09:00:51 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:03:15 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC

**Closing Statement:**

09:03:53 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 264.

**HEARING ON SB 243 - Prohibit discrimination in real-estate sector based on free speech and religion**

**Opening Statement:**

09:05:28 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 243, Prohibit discrimination in real-estate sector based on free speech and religion.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:08:00 Matthew Monforton, self

[EXHIBIT\(230210BUSa1\)](#)

09:15:27 Brandon Huber, self

09:22:01 Donna Elford, Lewis and Clark Republican Women

[EXHIBIT\(230210BUSa2\)](#)

09:24:24 Sarah Bauer, self

[EXHIBIT\(230210BUSa3\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230210BUSa4\)](#)

09:29:03 Steve Netschert, self

[EXHIBIT\(230210BUSa5\)](#)

09:31:44 Jacob (Joey) Duwe, self

09:34:20 Sen. Theresa Manzella, Senate District 44

09:37:53 Lance Kinzer, First Amendment Partnership

09:48:07 Constance Neumann, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:50:53 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

09:55:42 Robert Erickson, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

[EXHIBIT\(230210BUSa6\)](#)

10:07:55 Adrian Jawort, self

10:11:44 Dr. Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, Montana Human Rights Network (MHRN)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

10:15:25 Sen. Bruce Gillespie  
10:15:54 Joey Duwe  
10:16:20 Chair Jason Small  
10:16:36 Sam Sill, MAR  
10:16:55 Chair Jason Small  
10:17:17 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:25:42 Sam Sill, MAR  
10:26:29 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:27:18 Matthew Monfortin  
10:29:36 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
10:30:23 Brandon Huber  
10:32:31 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
10:34:08 Sam Sill, MAR  
10:34:38 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:35:24 Steve Netschert  
10:37:35 Sen. Walt Sales  
10:37:53 Matthew Monfortin

**Closing Statement:**

10:39:23 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 243.

10:41:16 **Discussion of Amendment to SB 178**

10:42:22 Erin Sullivan

10:43:23 Sen. Zolnikov  
10:46:09 Chair Jason Small

10:48:46 **Recessed**

11:17:35 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 22 - Generally revise independent contractor laws**

11:17:57 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 22 DO PASS.**  
11:18:03 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 22 BE AMENDED.**  
12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
11:19:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 22 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 165 - Establishing a duty of cooperation relating to insurance policies**

11:19:52 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 165 DO PASS.**  
11:20:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 165 BE AMENDED.**  
**Discussion:**  
11:20:25 Chair Jason Small  
11:21:02 Erin Sullivan  
12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy  
11:23:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Willis Curdy moved that **SB 165 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 178 - Generally revise cryptocurrency laws**

- 11:24:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 178 DO PASS.**
- 11:24:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 178 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 11:25:02 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
- 11:26:08 Vice Chair Mark Noland
- 11:26:51 Chair Jason Small
- 12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy
- 11:28:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 178 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 211 - Article V convention commissioner selection and credentialing act**

- 11:29:18 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 211 DO PASS.**
- 11:29:21 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 211 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 11:29:48 Sen. Walt Sales
- 12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.
- 11:31:15 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 211 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 216 - Revise laws related to litigation and products**

- 11:32:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 216 DO PASS.**
- 12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 223 - Establish requirements for insurance coverage of clinician-administered drugs**

11:33:12 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 223 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

11:33:19 Chair Jason Small

11:33:36 Vice Chair Mark Noland

11:33:50 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion failed unanimously by voice vote.

11:43:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 223 TO TABLE.**

12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 236 - Establish time limited demand standards**

11:35:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 236 DO PASS.**

11:36:09 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 236 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

11:37:02 Vice Chair Mark Noland

11:37:07 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:37:49 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 236 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 244 - Revise laws related to internships in funeral homes**

11:38:39 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 244 DO PASS.**

11:38:43 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 244 BE AMENDED.**

12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:39:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 244 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

12:27:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 270 - Prohibit employee termination for legal social media posts**

- 11:40:09      **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 270 DO PASS.**
- 11:40:15      **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 270 BE AMENDED.**
- 12:27:38      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 11:41:13      **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 270 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

- 11:41:30      Chair Jason Small
- 12:27:38      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 263 - Allow airport authorities to enter into certain contracts for 50 years**

- 11:42:13      **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 263 DO PASS.**
- 12:27:38      **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:44:36

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Trudy Burke, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230210BUSaad\)](#)