

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE**

**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON (S) BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Jason Small-R, on February 16, 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. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Walt Sales (R)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason Ellsworth (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 312 02/14/2023

SB 314 02/14/2023

Executive Action:

HB 60

HB 228

SB 259 TO TABLE

SB 264 DO PASS AS AMENDED

SB 269 DO PASS AS AMENDED

SB 312 DO PASS

SB 314 DO PASS

**HEARING ON SB 314 - Revise construction laws relating to bonds**

**Opening Statement:**

08:31:43 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 314, Revise construction laws relating to bonds.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:35:10 Brian Thompson, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:38:09 Sen. Mark Noland

08:41:33 Brian Thompson, MCA

08:42:40 Sen. Walt Sales

08:42:56 Brian Thompson, MCA

08:43:41 Sen. Mark Noland

08:44:01 Brian Thompson, MCA

08:45:11 Sen. Mark Noland

**Closing Statement:**

08:45:28 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 314.

**HEARING ON SB 312 - Generally revise microbrewery laws relating to brewer collaboration**

**Opening Statement:**

08:48:44 Sen. Terry Vermeire (R), SD 39, opened the hearing on SB 312,  
Generally revise microbrewery laws relating to brewer collaboration.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:51:47 Matt Leow, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

08:56:00 Doug Child, MAP Brewing (MAP)

09:01:51 Michael More, Headwaters Craft House

09:03:15 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Distillers Guild (MDG)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:05:08 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Division (DOR-ABC)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:00:08 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

09:05:46 Sen. Jason Small

09:05:47 Steve Swanson, DOR-ABC

09:05:54 Sen. Mark Noland

09:06:34 Steve Swanson, DOR-ABC

09:07:34 Sen. Jason Small

09:08:31 Matt Leow, MBA

09:08:50 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:09:13 Sen. Walt Sales

09:12:49 Doug Child, MAP

09:13:09 Sen. Willis Curdy

09:13:20 Doug Child, MAP

09:13:27 Sen. Mark Noland

09:14:00 Matt Leow, MBA

**Closing Statement:**

09:16:02 Sen. Terry Vermeire (R), SD 39, closed the hearing on SB 312.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 60 - An act providing for an annual fee on electric vehicles registered in the state**

09:44:25 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 60 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:44:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:44:25 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 228 - Generally revise public investment laws**

09:45:42 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **HB 228 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

09:16:43

09:19:42 Recessed

09:43:45 Reconvened

09:45:48 Sen. Willis Curdy

09:46:20 Sen. Mark Noland

09:45:42 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

09:45:42 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 259 - Small business tax credit for paying a livable wage**

09:48:48 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 259 DO PASS.**

09:48:54 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 259 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:49:19 Sen. Willis Curdy

09:50:12 Sen. Mark Noland

09:51:04 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 259 TO TABLE.**

09:51:04 **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 264 - Revise airport all-beverage license laws**

09:52:09 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 264 DO PASS.**

09:52:16 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 264 BE AMENDED.**

09:52:16 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:53:56 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 264 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:54:18 Sen. Mark Noland

09:53:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:55:44 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 264 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

09:55:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 269 - Establish consumer protections and disclosures in litigation financing**

09:56:16 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 269 DO PASS.**

09:56:33 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 269 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:56:51 Sen. Walt Sales

09:56:58 Erin Sullivan

09:56:33 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:59:08 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 269 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

09:59:08 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 312 - Generally revise microbrewery laws relating to brewer collaboration**

09:59:48 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 312 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:00:05 Sen. Jason Small

09:59:48 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 314 - Revise construction laws relating to bonds**

10:00:42 **Motion:** Sen. Mark Noland moved that **SB 314 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

10:00:47 Sen. Mark Noland

10:01:06 Sen. Walt Sales

10:00:42 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:02:23

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Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230216BUSaad\)](#)

