

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on February 22, 2023 at 8:31 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: Lynnette Sena, 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 359 02/16/2023
SB 360 02/16/2023
SB 361 02/16/2023
SB 366 02/16/2023

Executive Action:

SB 243 TO TABLE
SB 283 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 310 DO PASS
SB 340 DO PASS
SB 359 DO PASS

HEARING ON SB 360 - Revise laws related to alcohol content in beer

Opening Statement:

08:32:03 Sen. Terry Vermeire (R), SD 39, opened the hearing on SB 360, Revise laws related to alcohol content in beer.

Proponent Testimony:

08:34:14 Matt Leow, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

08:37:48 Mike Grayson, self

Opponent Testimony:

08:39:25 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections

[EXHIBIT\(230222BUSa1\)](#)

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:41:21 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

08:41:44 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:42:20 Mike Grayson, self

08:42:57 Chair Jason Small

08:44:12 Steve Swanson, DOR

08:44:29 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:46:00 Coleen Smith

08:46:04 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:46:34 Steve Swanson, DOR

08:47:04 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:49:58 Matt Leow, MSBA

08:51:17 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:53:05 Steve Swanson, DOR
08:53:26 Sen. Walt Sales
08:55:03 Steve Swanson, DOR
08:55:39 Chair Jason Small
08:55:51 Steve Swanson, DOR
08:56:13 Chair Jason Small
08:56:26 Matt Leow, MSBA
08:57:08 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:59:19 Steve Swanson, DOR
09:00:18 Sen. Mike Fox
09:01:36 Matt Leow, MSBA

Closing Statement:

09:02:45 Sen. Terry Vermeire (R), SD 39, closed the hearing on SB 360.

HEARING ON SB 366 - Revise laws related to drinking age

Opening Statement:

09:03:31 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, opened the hearing on SB 366, Revise laws related to drinking age.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230222BUSa2\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

09:07:59 Coleen Smith, Director, Youth Connections

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:10:34 Malcolm Long, Montana Department of Transportation (DOT)
09:13:09 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

09:13:37 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:16:24 Malcolm Long, DOT
09:18:52 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:19:28 Sen. Jeremy Trebas-R
09:20:32 Sen. Walt Sales
09:21:22 Sen. Jeremy Trebas-R
09:22:41 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:23:33 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections

Closing Statement:

09:25:00 Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R), SD 26, closed the hearing on SB 366.

HEARING ON SB 359 - Prohibit tracking of firearms sales by financial institutions

Opening Statement:

09:28:31 Sen. Terry Vermeire (R), SD 39, opened the hearing on SB 359, Prohibit tracking of firearms sales by financial institutions.

Proponent Testimony:

09:29:58 Lisa Bennett, self
09:33:01 Gary Marbut, Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA)
09:34:05 Austin Knudsen, Montana Attorney General (MAG)
09:36:06 Kevin Conrad, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:39:04 Chair Jason Small
09:39:31 Austin Knudsen, AG
09:40:12 Sen. Walt Sales
09:41:11 Sen. Terry Vermeire-R
09:41:19 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

Closing Statement:

09:41:36 Sen. Terry Vermeire (R), SD 39, closed the hearing on SB 359.

HEARING ON SB 361 - Prohibit discrimination by any person or entity because of firearms

Opening Statement:

09:42:35 Sen. John Fuller (R), SD 8, opened the hearing on SB 361, Prohibit discrimination by any person or entity because of firearms.

Proponent Testimony:

09:45:12 Gary Marbut, Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA)
09:48:31 Austin Knudsen, Montana Attorney General (AG)
09:50:38 Lisa Bennett, self
09:52:01 Kent Conrad, self
09:53:35 Conniesue Neumann, self

Opponent Testimony:

09:57:22 Dan Villa, Montana Board of Investments (MBI)
09:58:52 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Bankers Association (MBA)

10:07:39 Karen Smith, Montana's Credit Unions
10:08:54 Aimee Grmoljez, American Property and Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)
10:12:07 Charles Robinson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:17:19 Frank Cote, Commissioner of Securities Insurance

Questions from Committee:

10:17:49 Chair Jason Small
10:19:06 Frank Cote, C
10:20:00 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:20:31 Dan Villa, MBI
10:22:02 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:22:34 Dan Villa, MBI
10:23:57 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:26:12 Sen. John Fuller-R
10:26:56 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
10:27:46 Dan Villa, MBI
10:28:33 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:29:16 Austin Knudsen, MAG

Closing Statement:

10:30:25 Sen. John Fuller (R), SD 8, closed the hearing on SB 361.
10:37:59 **Recessed**
10:59:20 **Reconvened**

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

10:59:25 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 243 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:59:45 Chair Jason Small

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion failed 8 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Noland, Sen. Small, voting yes.

11:01:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 243 TO TABLE.**

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 283 - Revise laws related to credit union compliance with laws

11:01:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 283 DO PASS.**

11:01:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 283 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:01:55 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

11:02:45 Vice Chair Mark Noland

11:03:28 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting yes.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:05:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 283 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:06:02 Vice Chair Mark Noland

11:06:30 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

11:07:32 Vice Chair Mark Noland

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:06:42 **Motion:** Vice Chair Willis Curdy moved that **SB 283 TO TABLE.**

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting yes.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:07:00 **Motion:** Chair Jason Small moved that **SB 283 BE AMENDED.**

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:08:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 283 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:09:39 Sen. Walt Sales

11:10:00 Chair Jason Small

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:08:41 **Motion:** Vice Chair Willis Curdy moved that **SB 283 TO TABLE.**

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion failed 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Pope, voting yes.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:09:00 **Motion:** Chair Jason Small moved that **SB 283 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 310 - Revise presumptive occupational disease laws

11:11:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 310 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:11:37 Vice Chair Mark Noland

11:12:42 Chair Jason Small

11:13:58 Sen. Walt Sales

11:14:49 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

11:15:17 Vice Chair Mark Noland

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Noland, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 340 - Revise laws related to insurance coverage of insulin

11:16:40 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 340 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:16:48 Chair Jason Small
11:17:20 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 359 - Prohibit tracking of firearms sales by financial institutions

11:18:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 359 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:19:01 Sen. Walt Sales

12:39:29 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Pope, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:21:21

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230222BUSaad\)](#)