

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R, on February 23, 2023 at 3:31 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)

Staff Present: Casey Pallister, Research Analyst
Lynnette Sena, Secretary

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 324 02/14/2023
SB 354 02/20/2023
SB 356 02/16/2023
SB 388 02/20/2023

Executive Action:

SB 356 DO PASS
SB 298 TO TABLE
SB 280 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 324 DO PASS

18:12:06

Committee Discussion:

18:12:06 Sen. Bob Brown
18:12:14 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
18:12:32 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
18:12:37 Sen. Bob Brown
18:13:10 Sen. John Fuller
18:13:32 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
18:13:42 Sen. Bob Brown
18:13:57 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
18:14:05 Sen. Pat Flowers
18:14:13 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
18:14:38 Sen. Willis Curdy
18:14:42 Sen. Steve Hinebauch

HEARING ON SB 324 - Revise FWP information disclosure laws

Opening Statement:

15:32:59 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 13, opened the hearing on SB 324, Revise FWP information disclosure laws.

Proponent Testimony:

15:35:45 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife (MTSFW)
[EXHIBIT\(230223FISa1\)](#)
15:40:13 Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management (F4WM)

15:41:28 Tom Fieber, President, Montana Fur Harvesters (MFH)
15:44:20 Ross Morgan, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association (RMSGGA)
15:45:15 Matt Lumley, self
15:46:36 Bill Mitchell, self
15:48:05 Larry Rattray, self
15:49:27 Keith Kubista, self
15:50:46 Kris Killorn, Outdoor Heritage Coalition (OHC)

Opponent Testimony:

15:52:10 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands
15:54:41 Kim Bean, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:56:11 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Staff, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:56:43 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:57:20 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:57:46 Sen. Pat Flowers
15:58:48 Quentin Kujala, FWP

Closing Statement:

16:00:06 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 13, closed the hearing on SB 324.

HEARING ON SB 354 - Reciprocity for out of state trappers

Opening Statement:

16:03:16 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 13, opened the hearing on SB 354, Reciprocity for out of state trappers.

Proponent Testimony:

16:04:27 Matt Lumley, President, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
16:05:52 Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management (F4WM)
16:07:03 Lewis Tafelmeyer, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
16:07:44 Sen. Greg Hertz left the meeting.
16:09:36 Chris Morgan, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
16:12:02 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (MTSFW)

Opponent Testimony:

16:13:04 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:15:48 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Staff, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:16:16 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
16:17:20 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:17:38 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
16:19:16 Sen. Bob Brown
16:19:39 Matt Lumley, MTA
16:20:09 Tom Fieber, MFH
16:20:56 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
16:21:11 Justin Webb, F4WM

Closing Statement:

16:21:41 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 13, closed the hearing on SB 354.

HEARING ON SB 388 - Revise nonresident bird hunting

Opening Statement:

16:24:14 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 388, Revise nonresident bird hunting.

Proponent Testimony:

16:29:01 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Staff, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

16:29:43 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

16:30:23 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

16:32:13 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)

16:33:28 Dale Spartas, self

16:34:33 Peter Bakun, self

16:35:43 Thomas Hicks, self

16:37:08 Glenn Lehrer, self

16:39:19 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.

16:41:30 Alycia Nathe, Daniels County Conservation District

16:42:59 Paul Dinkins, self

16:43:19 Sen. John Fuller left the meeting.

16:43:28 Sen. Mark Noland left the meeting.

16:45:26 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance

Opponent Testimony:

16:48:46 Representative Rhonda Knudsen, HD 34

[EXHIBIT\(230223FISa2\)](#)

16:49:08 Sen. John Fuller joined the meeting.

16:49:15 Sen. Mark Noland joined the meeting.

16:52:22 Tom Davis, self

[EXHIBIT\(230223FISa3\)](#)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:57:37 Sen. John Fuller
16:58:03 Rep. Rhonda Knudson
16:58:33 Sen. Bob Brown
17:02:09 Quentin Kujala, FWP
17:03:18 Sen. Willis Curdy
17:04:11 Glenn Lehrer, self
17:04:27 Ron Howell, Chief of Enforcement, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
17:04:34 Sen. Willis Curdy
17:05:51 Ron Howell, FWP
17:06:30 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
17:08:53 Rep. Rhonda Knudson
17:10:48 Sen. Bob Brown
17:11:16 Quentin Kujala, FWP
17:12:19 Sen. Willis Curdy
17:12:46 Thomas Hicks, self

Closing Statement:

17:13:04 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, closed the hearing on SB 388.

HEARING ON SB 356 - Require notification to sheriff of game check stations

Opening Statement:

17:17:42 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB 356, Require notification to sheriff of game check stations.

Proponent Testimony:

17:21:45 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:22:32 Ron Howell, Chief of Enforcement, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

17:22:56 Sen. John Fuller
17:24:14 Ron Howell, FWP
17:24:25 Sen. John Fuller
17:24:41 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
17:25:12 Ron Howell, FWP
17:25:33 Sen. Mark Noland
17:25:44 Ron Howell, FWP
17:25:52 Sen. Bob Brown
17:27:05 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
17:28:07 Sen. Bob Brown
17:29:26 Ron Howell, FWP

Closing Statement:

17:30:16 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, closed the hearing on SB 356.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 356 - Require notification to sheriff of game check stations

17:32:01 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 356 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:32:06 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
17:32:26 Sen. Bob Brown
17:33:27 Sen. Mark Noland
17:34:12 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
17:34:37 Sen. Bob Brown
17:35:02 Sen. Pat Flowers
17:35:55 Sen. John Fuller
17:32:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 298 - Revise laws related to hunting by disabled persons

17:37:18 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 298 DO PASS.**
17:37:45 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 298 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:38:00 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
17:38:51 Casey Pallister
17:39:24 Sen. Greg Hertz
17:37:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:40:38 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 298 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:41:35 Casey Pallister
17:42:54 Sen. Willis Curdy
17:43:14 Casey Pallister
17:43:36 Sen. Greg Hertz
17:43:59 Casey Pallister
17:44:10 Sen. Greg Hertz
17:44:29 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Greg Hertz moved that **SB 298 SEGREGATE PAGES 1-3.**
17:44:29 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 10 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Flowers, Sen. Fox, voting no.
Sen. Fox, By Proxy

17:49:08 **Motion:** Sen. Greg Hertz moved that **SB 298 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:49:18 Sen. Greg Hertz

17:51:04 Sen. Bob Brown

17:52:12 Sen. Pat Flowers

17:52:45 Sen. Greg Hertz

17:53:13 Sen. Pat Flowers

17:49:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Fox, Sen. McClafferty, voting no.
Sen. Fox, By Proxy

17:54:49 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 298 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:55:05 Sen. John Fuller

17:55:52 Sen. Greg Hertz

17:56:52 Sen. Pat Flowers

17:57:39 Casey Pallister

17:58:10 Sen. Steve Hinebauch

17:58:15 Casey Pallister

17:58:23 Sen. Greg Hertz

17:58:56 Sen. Steve Hinebauch

17:59:04 Sen. Greg Hertz

17:59:20 Sen. Pat Flowers

18:01:29 Sen. Bob Brown

18:01:35 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 298 TO TABLE.**

Discussion:

18:02:27 Sen. Willis Curdy

18:01:35 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 10 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Hertz, Sen. Hinebauch, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 280 - Revise bird dog training laws

18:04:00 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 280 DO PASS.**

18:04:14 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 280 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:05:13 Casey Pallister

18:05:49 Sen. Bob Brown

18:06:20 Sen. Steve Hinebauch

18:04:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

18:07:12 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 280 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:07:26 Sen. Pat Flowers

18:08:29 Sen. Steve Hinebauch

18:07:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 324 - Revise FWP information disclosure laws

18:09:39 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 324 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:09:54 Sen. Bob Brown

18:10:50 Sen. Pat Flowers

18:12:06

18:09:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:14:50

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230223FISaad\)](#)