

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Theresa Manzella-R, on February 23, 2023 at 3:33 PM, in 405

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Theresa Manzella, Chair (R)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)
Sen. Jen Gross (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. Kathy Kelker (D)
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)

Staff Present: Trudy Burke, Secretary
Joe Carroll, 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 320 02/22/2023
SB 412 02/21/2023
SB 452 02/22/2023

Executive Action:

SB 288 DO PASS
SB 412 TO TABLE
SB 452 DO PASS
HB 320 BE CONCURRED IN AS
AMENDED

15:34:24 Sen. Beard has left

15:34:39 Sen. Friedel has arrived

HEARING ON SB 412 - Require warning for electric vehicles

Opening Statement:

15:36:05 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 412, Require warning for electric vehicles.

15:36:11 Sen. Dunwell has arrived

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:38:17 Charles Denowh, Tesla

15:41:34 John MacDonald, Alliance for Automotive Innovation (AAI)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:45:43 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:47:36 Sen. Barry Usher-R

15:48:16 Sen. Jen Gross

15:51:44 Sen. Barry Usher-R

15:52:59 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:53:38 Charles Denowh, Tesla
15:54:11 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:54:30 Sen. Barry Usher-R
15:55:01 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:55:14 John MacDonald, AAI
15:56:43 Sen. Carl Glimm
15:58:14 Charles Denowh, Tesla
15:58:44 Sen. Theresa Manzella
15:59:28 John MacDonald, AAI
16:01:00 Sen. Theresa Manzella
16:03:14 Charles Denowh, Tesla
16:03:59 Sen. Jen Gross
16:04:12 Charles Denowh, Tesla
16:05:10 John MacDonald, AAI

Closing Statement:

16:06:36 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 412.

HEARING ON HB 320 - Generally revise motor vehicle laws

Opening Statement:

16:11:18 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HB 320, Generally revise motor vehicle laws.

Proponent Testimony:

16:14:25 Ryan Hall, Montana Electric Cooperative Association (MECA), and on behalf of Northwest Energy

16:17:59 Dave Galt, Montana Chambers of Commerce
16:18:39 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
16:21:34 Aimee Grmoljez, MDU Resources
16:22:42 Duane Williams, Montana Trucking Association
16:23:35 Goeff Feiss, Broadband Montana
16:24:29 Michael Piper, Flathead Electric Cooperative

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:29:58 Jon Swartz, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee:

16:30:39 Sen. Barry Usher
16:33:22 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:33:58 Sen. Carl Glimm
16:36:52 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:37:38 Sen. Barry Usher
16:37:45 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:37:52 Sen. Chris Friedel
16:38:11 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:38:21 Sen. Theresa Manzella
16:40:49 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:41:12 Sen. Barry Usher

16:42:00 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:42:46 Joe Carroll
16:43:22 Sen. Carl Glimm
16:43:41 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:44:07 Sen. Theresa Manzella
16:44:56 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:45:39 Sen. Chris Friedel
16:46:09 Sen. Shelley Vance
16:46:56 Sen. Theresa Manzella
16:48:21 Rep. Neil Duram-R
16:49:32 Ryan Hall, MECA
16:50:55 Sen. Carl Glimm
16:51:14 Rep. Neil Duram-R

Closing Statement:

16:51:34 Rep. Neil Duram (R), HD 2, closed the hearing on HB 320.

**HEARING ON SB 452 - Revise the transportation commission's authority to set speed
limits**

Opening Statement:

16:54:15 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, opened the hearing on SB 452, Revise the transportation commission's authority to set speed limits.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:57:32 Dustin Rouse, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

Questions from Committee:

16:58:18 Sen. Jen Gross

17:01:11 Dustin Rouse, MDT

17:02:01 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

17:02:23 Dustin Rouse, MDT

17:04:20 Sen. Carl Glimm

17:05:26 Dustin Rouse, MDT

17:05:41 Sen. Shelley Vance

17:08:44 Dustin Rouse, MDT

17:09:25 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

17:11:20 Dustin Rouse, MDT

Closing Statement:

17:11:42 Sen. Barry Usher (R), SD 40, closed the hearing on SB 452

17:16:05 Recessed

17:22:31 Reconvened

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION on HB 320 and possible amendments

17:22:40 Sen. Theresa Manzella

17:22:49 Joe Carroll

17:22:55 Sen. Chris Friedel
17:23:20 Sen. Carl Glimm
17:24:11 Sen. Barry Usher
17:25:43 Sen. Chris Friedel
17:25:52 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:26:36 Sen. Carl Glimm
17:27:54 Sen. Barry Usher
17:28:36 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:28:45 Joe Carroll
17:29:50 Sen. Barry Usher
17:30:42 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
17:31:35 Ryan Hall, Montana Electric Cooperative Association (MECA)
17:32:30 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:32:41 Sen. Carl Glimm
17:32:53 Ryan Hall, MECA
17:33:40 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:34:07 Joe Carroll
17:36:36 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:36:50 Joe Carroll
17:37:13 Sen. Theresa Manzella
17:37:25 Sen. Barry Usher
17:37:37 Sen. Chris Friedel

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 288 - Eliminate sunset on junk vehicle statute

17:38:07 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **SB 288 DO PASS.**

17:38:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 412 - Require warning for electric vehicles

17:38:56 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **SB 412 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:39:35 Sen. Theresa Manzella

17:40:27 Sen. Barry Usher

17:40:50 Sen. Jen Gross

17:38:56 **Vote:** Motion failed 10 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Glimm, Sen. Usher, voting yes.

17:42:39 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **SB 412 TO TABLE.**

17:42:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 452 - Revise the transportation commission's authority to set speed limits

17:43:46 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **SB 452 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:43:58 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

17:43:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Gross, Sen. Kelker, Sen. Olsen, voting no.
Sen. Kelker, Sen. Olsen, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 320 - Generally revise motor vehicle laws

17:46:40 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **HB 320 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:46:15 Joe Carroll

17:47:04 **Motion:** Sen. Barry Usher moved that **HB 320 BE AMENDED.**

17:47:04 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Gross, Sen. Kelker, Sen. Olsen, voting no.
Sen. Kelker, Sen. Olsen, By Proxy

17:48:35 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **HB 320 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

17:48:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:48:35 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jeff Welborn

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:50:42

Trudy Burke, Secretary

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