

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Gillespie-R, on February 28, 2023 at 4:11 PM, in 335

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Mike Lang, Chair (R)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Susan Webber, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)

Staff Present: Grace Gibney, Secretary
Trevor Graff, Research Analyst
Devlin Kelly, Remote Meeting Coordinator

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 375 02/23/2023
SB 447 02/23/2023
SB 462 02/23/2023
SB 473 02/23/2023
SJ 13 02/23/2023

Executive Action:

SB 473 TO TABLE
SB 447 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 375 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 462 DO PASS
SJ 13 DO PASS
SB 347 TO TABLE

HEARING ON SB 473 - Create food safety panel

Opening Statement:

16:12:42 Sen. Daniel Emrich (R), SD 11, opened the hearing on SB 473, Create food safety panel.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:18:01 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association, Montana Restaurant Association

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:19:03 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture

Questions from Committee:

16:19:56 Vice Chair Susan Webber
16:21:42 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:23:07 Sen. Shane Morigeau
16:23:47 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:24:29 Sen. Daniel Salomon
16:24:52 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture
16:25:39 Sen. Wendy McKamey
16:26:04 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture
16:26:57 Sen. Wendy McKamey
16:28:01 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:29:08 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn
16:29:54 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

16:31:03 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn
16:31:25 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture
16:33:00 Sen. Dan Bartel
16:33:33 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:35:36 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie
16:35:58 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R
16:37:31 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie
16:37:48 Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture

Closing Statement:

16:39:17 Sen. Daniel Emrich (R), SD 11, closed the hearing on SB 473.

HEARING ON SB 447 - Provide for a recreation and tourism promotion act

Opening Statement:

16:42:44 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 447, Provide for a recreation and tourism promotion act.

Proponent Testimony:

16:45:44 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association
16:46:15 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Travel Association
16:47:42 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

Opponent Testimony:

16:48:59 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:54:47 Sen. Shane Morigeau

16:56:27 Al Smith, MTLA
16:57:58 Sen. Shane Morigeau
16:58:44 Sen. Bruce Gillespie-R
17:00:20 Sen. Wendy McKamey
17:01:14 Al Smith, MTLA
17:03:35 Sen. Wendy McKamey
17:04:07 Sen. Bruce Gillespie-R
17:06:53 Sen. Shane Morigeau
17:07:28 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Travel Association

Closing Statement:

17:09:00 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, closed the hearing on SB 447.

HEARING ON SB 375 - Remove notice for killing animals running at large

Opening Statement:

17:10:26 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 375, Remove notice for killing animals running at large.

Proponent Testimony:

17:12:36 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

Opponent Testimony:

17:15:59 Mike Honeycutt, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

17:17:27 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGGA)

17:18:18 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBBF)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:19:38 Sen. Dan Bartel
17:20:52 Mike Honeycutt, MDOL
17:23:36 Sen. Wendy McKamey
17:23:52 Mike Honeycutt, MDOL
17:24:36 Sen. Shane Morigeau
17:25:28 Charles Denowh, UPOM

Closing Statement:

17:29:58 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 375.

HEARING ON SB 462 - Prioritize ag irrigation in RRGL

Opening Statement:

17:31:24 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 462, Prioritize ag irrigation in RRGL.

Proponent Testimony:

17:33:22 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association
17:38:13 Scott Aspenlider, Montana Water Resources Association
17:41:45 Erling Juel, Greenfields Irrigation District
17:46:08 Drew Pearson, self
17:47:35 Cole Peebles, Montana Water Resources Association
17:50:18 Mark Diehl, Helena Valley Irrigation District
17:53:04 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, (MFBF
17:53:51 Jim Anderson, self

Opponent Testimony:

17:54:56 Thomas Jodin, Montana League of Cities and Towns

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:56:41 Lindsay Volpe, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Questions from Committee:

17:57:37 Vice Chair Susan Webber

17:58:11 Sen. Mike Lang-R

18:00:48 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

18:01:58 Sen. Mike Lang-R

Closing Statement:

18:03:25 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 462.

HEARING ON SJ 13 - Resolution for rangeland appreciation month

Opening Statement:

18:05:40 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SJ 13, Resolution for rangeland appreciation month.

Proponent Testimony:

18:07:13 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

18:08:17 Jim Anderson, Montana Rangeland Committee

[EXHIBIT\(230228AGSa1\)](#)

18:11:24 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association (MSGA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

18:12:29 Sen. Wendy McKamey

18:12:53 Sen. Mike Lang-R

18:13:45 Sen. Shane Morigeau

18:14:07 Sen. Mike Lang-R

Closing Statement:

18:14:17 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SJ 13.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 473 - Create food safety panel

18:25:57 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 473 TO TABLE.**

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Morigeau, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 447 - Provide for a recreation and tourism promotion act

18:26:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 447 DO PASS.**

18:27:16 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 447 BE AMENDED.**

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

18:28:15 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 447 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Lang, Sen. Lenz, Sen. McKamey, Sen. Webber, voting no.
Sen. Boldman, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 375 - Remove notice for killing animals running at large

18:29:20 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 375 DO PASS.**

18:29:42 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 375 BE AMENDED.**

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

18:30:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 375 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:30:44 Sen. Wendy McKamey

18:31:10 Sen. Shane Morigeau

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 4 by voice vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. O'Brien, Sen. Webber, voting no.
Sen. Boldman, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 462 - Prioritize ag irrigation in RRGL

18:32:21 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 462 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:32:32 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

18:33:04 Sen. Dan Bartel

18:34:13 Sen. Wendy McKamey

18:34:47 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. O'Brien, Sen. Webber, voting no.
Sen. Boldman, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 13 - Resolution for rangeland appreciation month

18:35:47 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SJ 13 DO PASS.**

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 347 - Revise right to repair laws relating to agriculture

18:36:18 **Motion:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn moved that **SB 347 TO TABLE.**

Discussion:

18:36:38 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

12:29:35 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 4 by voice vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Morigeau, Sen. O'Brien, Sen. Webber, voting no.
Sen. Boldman, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:37:42

Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230228AGSaad\)](#)