

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Hinebauch-R, on February 28, 2023 at 4:10 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

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 428 02/23/2023

SJ 14 02/23/2023

Executive Action:

SB 354 DO PASS AS AMENDED

SB 357 TO TABLE

SB 388 DO PASS AS AMENDED

SB 428 TO TABLE

SJ 14 DO PASS

16:12:50 Sen. Noland has arrived

**HEARING ON SJ 14 - Resolution opposing bison introduction at Charles M. Russell
Wildlife Refuge**

Opening Statement:

16:12:12 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SJ 14, Resolution opposing bison introduction at Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge.

Proponent Testimony:

16:16:00 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

16:18:05 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA), Montana Public Lands Council, Montana Association of State Grazing District (MASGD)

16:19:20 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:20:12 Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association (MWGA)

16:22:11 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.

16:23:02 Bob Gilbert, Phillips County

Opponent Testimony:

16:24:15 Chamois Andersen, Senior Representative, Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders)

[EXHIBIT\(230228FISa1\)](#)

16:28:01 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)

16:29:52 Peter Dudley, Montana Audubon

16:31:49 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

16:32:35 Nick Gevock, Bear Creek Council

16:34:19 Darrell Geist, Buffalo Field Campaign

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:36:35	Sen. John Fuller
16:38:20	Calli Michaels, MWGA
16:40:02	Vice Chair Bob Brown
16:43:28	Chamois Andersen, Defenders
16:44:28	Vice Chair Mike Fox
16:44:32	Sen. Daniel Emrich joined the meeting.
16:46:34	Sen. Willis Curdy
16:47:02	Marcus Strange, MWF
16:47:21	Chamois Andersen, Defenders
16:48:10	Chair Steve Hinebauch
16:48:49	Shelby DeMars, UPOM
16:49:20	Calli Michaels, MWGA
16:49:55	Chair Steve Hinebauch
16:50:32	Calli Michaels, MWGA
16:51:58	Sen. Pat Flowers
16:53:55	Marcus Strange, MWF
16:54:05	Chair Steve Hinebauch
16:54:13	Marcus Strange, MWF
16:54:24	Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:57:06	Chamois Andersen, Defenders
16:57:46	Chair Steve Hinebauch
16:59:09	Sen. Mike Lang

Closing Statement:

17:00:12 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SJ 14.

HEARING ON SB 428 - Elect fish and wildlife commissioners

Opening Statement:

17:03:47 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 428, Elect fish and wildlife commissioners.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

17:12:58 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
17:14:28 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)
17:16:01 Chamois Andersen, Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders)
17:16:39 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited of Montana (WUM)
17:20:14 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)
17:23:08 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBBF)
17:23:56 Jocelyn Leroux, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
17:24:22 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)
17:24:50 Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association (MWGA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:25:23 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

17:25:53 Sen. John Fuller
17:26:27 Jocelyn Leroux, MCV

Closing Statement:

17:26:55 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, closed the hearing on SB 428.

17:33:07 Sen. Hertz has left

17:33:49 Sen. Hertz has arrived

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 354 - Reciprocity for out of state trappers

17:34:19 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 354 DO PASS.**

17:34:46 **Motion:** Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty moved that **SB 354 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:35:00 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

17:35:47 Casey Pallister

17:36:33 Vice Chair Bob Brown

17:37:14 Sen. Daniel Emrich

17:34:46 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:38:10 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 354 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:38:23 Sen. Daniel Emrich

17:39:37 Vice Chair Bob Brown

17:38:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Emrich, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 357 - Require terms for conservation easements using state funds

17:40:47 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 357 DO PASS.**

17:41:12 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 357 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

17:41:25 Chair Steve Hinebauch

17:41:58 Sen. Daniel Emrich

17:42:26 Casey Pallister

17:43:02 Sen. Pat Flowers

- 17:43:53 Vice Chair Bob Brown
- 17:41:12 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. McClafferty, voting no.
- 17:44:55 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 357 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:45:18 Sen. John Fuller
- 17:45:51 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 17:47:55 Sen. Pat Flowers
- 17:48:53 Sen. Mark Noland
- 17:49:31 Chair Steve Hinebauch
- 17:44:55 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Emrich, Sen. Hertz, Sen. Hinebauch, Sen. Noland, voting yes.
Sen. Ellsworth, By Proxy
- 17:51:44 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 357 TO TABLE.**
- 17:51:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 388 - Revise nonresident bird hunting

- 17:52:21 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 388 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:52:50 Sen. Pat Flowers
- 17:53:57 **Motion:** Sen. Pat Flowers moved that **SB 388 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 17:54:15 Sen. Greg Hertz
- 17:54:39 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 17:55:31 Chair Steve Hinebauch
- 17:53:57 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Emrich, Sen. Fuller, Sen. Hertz, Sen. McClafferty, Sen. Noland, voting no.
- 17:56:45 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 388 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- 17:56:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown, Sen. Ellsworth, Sen. Emrich, Sen. Hertz, Sen. Noland, voting no.
Sen. Ellsworth, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 428 - Elect fish and wildlife commissioners

17:57:47 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 428 TO TABLE.**

17:57:47 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 14 - Resolution opposing bison introduction at Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge

17:58:26 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SJ 14 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:58:38 Sen. Pat Flowers

18:00:10 Vice Chair Mike Fox

18:00:35 Sen. Willis Curdy

18:01:20 Vice Chair Bob Brown

18:02:57 Sen. Mark Noland

18:03:58 Chair Steve Hinebauch

18:04:40 Sen. Danil Emrich

17:58:26 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Fox, Sen. McClafferty, voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:05:55

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

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