

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on March 10, 2023 at 8:29 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. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)

Staff Present: Daisy Rhodes, 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:

HB 49 03/01/2023
HB 95 03/01/2023
HB 96 03/01/2023
HB 97 03/01/2023

Executive Action:

HB 49 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 95 BE CONCURRED IN AS
AMENDED
HB 96 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 97 BE CONCURRED IN

HEARING ON HB 49 - Revising alcoholic beverage laws relating to wholesalers and distributors

Opening Statement:

08:30:40 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 49, Revising alcoholic beverage laws relating to wholesalers and distributors.

Proponent Testimony:

08:31:52 Becky Schaluch, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABC)

08:32:16 Debra Pitassy, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association (MBWDA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

08:33:05 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 49.

HEARING ON HB 95 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol

Opening Statement:

08:33:49 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 95, Generally revise laws related to alcohol.

Proponent Testimony:

08:35:24 Becky Schlauch, Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:36:48 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:37:22 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC
08:37:32 Sen. Walt Sales
08:37:47 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC
08:37:58 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:38:12 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC

Closing Statement:

08:38:29 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 95.

HEARING ON HB 96 - Include agency liquor stores in the Department of Revenue's premises review

Opening Statement:

08:39:17 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 96, Include agency liquor stores in the Department of Revenue's premises review.

Proponent Testimony:

08:39:58 Becky Schlauch, Montana Department of Revenue- Alcohol and Beverage Control (DOR-ABC)
08:40:30 Debra Pitassy, Montana Beer and Wine Distributors Association (MBWDA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:41:07 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:43:04 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC
08:43:15 Sen. Walt Sales
08:43:32 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC

Closing Statement:

08:44:26 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 96.

HEARING ON HB 97 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol

Opening Statement:

08:46:01 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 97, Generally revise laws related to alcohol.

Proponent Testimony:

08:47:08 Becky Schlauch, Montana Department of Revenue- Alcohol Beverage Control (DOR-ABC)
08:47:52 Debra Pitassy, Montana Beer and Wine Distributers Association (MBWDA)
08:49:05 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Brewers Association (MBA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:49:55 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:50:32 Steve Swanson, Montana Department of Revenue- Alcohol Beverage Control (DOR-ABC)
08:51:15 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:51:34 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC

08:51:48 Chair Jason Small
08:52:01 Becky Schlauch, DOR-ABC
08:52:55 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:54:09 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

Closing Statement:

08:54:38 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 97.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 49 - Revising alcoholic beverage laws relating to wholesalers and distributors

09:04:35 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 49 BE CONCURRED IN.**
09:04:35 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
09:04:35 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:05:26 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 95 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol

09:05:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 95 BE CONCURRED IN.**
09:06:01 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 95 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

09:06:12 Erin Sullivan
09:07:33 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:07:33 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
09:08:03 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 95 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
09:08:03 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
09:08:03 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small
09:07:59 Sen. Pope has left

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 96 - Include agency liquor stores in the Department of Revenue's premises review

09:08:44 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 96 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:08:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:08:44 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 97 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol

09:09:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 97 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:09:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:09:32 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 09:10:48

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230310BUSaad\)](#)