

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on March 13, 2023 at 8:30 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: Lynnette Sena, 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 62 03/01/2023
HB 101 03/01/2023
HB 144 03/01/2023
HB 263 03/01/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 263 - Revise insurance coverage for prescription eyedrop refills

Opening Statement:

08:30:43 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, opened the hearing on HB 263, Revise insurance coverage for prescription eyedrop refills.

Proponent Testimony:

08:32:52 Lynette Gilbertson, Executive Director, Montana Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)

08:35:35 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Optometry Association (MNO)

08:36:00 Stuart Doggett, Montana Pharmacy Association (RXMT)

08:36:41 Erik Van Kuijk, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:38:55 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:39:32 Nanette Gilbertson, AAO

08:40:42 Chair Jason Small

08:41:03 Nanette Gilbertson, AAO

08:41:53 Sen. Walt Sales

08:44:00 Jennifer Hensley, MNO

08:44:20 Erik Van Kuijk, self

08:46:02 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:46:41 Nanette Gilbertson, AAO

08:47:27 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:48:39 Nanette Gilbertson, AAO

Closing Statement:

08:50:08 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, closed the hearing on HB 263.

HEARING ON HB 101 - Revise licensing reciprocity for behavioral health care licensees

Opening Statement:

08:50:56 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 101, Revise licensing reciprocity for behavioral health care licensees.

Proponent Testimony:

08:52:20 Matt Kuntz, Nami Montana

08:53:23 Jenna Eisenhart, Shodair Children's Hospital

08:58:04 Heather O'Hara, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)

08:59:10 Adrienna Haines, Benefis Health System

Opponent Testimony:

09:00:04 Quinlan O'Connor, Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:03:19 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:07:19 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

09:07:30 Chair Jason Small

09:08:02 Matt Kuntz, NAM

09:08:36 Chair Jason Small

09:09:04 Quinlan O'Connor, DOLI
09:11:32 Sen. Christopher Pope
09:12:52 Quinlan O'Connor, DOLI
09:13:22 Sen. Christopher Pope
09:13:51 Rep. Jane Gillette-R
09:14:55 Sen. Walt Sales
09:15:34 Matt Kuntz, NAM
09:16:15 Sen. Walt Sales
09:18:26 Rep. Jane Gillette-R
09:19:08 Sen. Walt Sales
09:19:27 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:19:48 Quinlan O'Connor, DOLI

Closing Statement:

09:20:15 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, closed the hearing on HB 101.

09:24:17 Sen. Pope has left

HEARING ON HB 144 - Generally revise laws related to competitive bidding requirements

Opening Statement:

09:24:16 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, opened the hearing on HB 144, Generally revise laws related to competitive bidding requirements.

Proponent Testimony:

09:24:54 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:27:23 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:28:22 Steve Swanson, DOR

09:28:54 Chair Jason Small

09:29:43 Steve Swanson, DOR

Closing Statement:

09:30:06 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, closed the hearing on HB 144.

HEARING ON HB 62 - Generally revise laws related to bail bonds

Opening Statement:

09:34:35 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 62, Generally revise laws related to bail bonds.

Proponent Testimony:

09:41:57 Frank Cote, Office of State Auditors

Opponent Testimony:

09:44:38 John Looney, Montana Bail Agents Association (MBAA)

09:52:13 John Willoughby, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:54:18 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:54:51 John Willoughby

09:56:26 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:56:47 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

10:00:33 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

10:00:43 Rep. Bill Mercer-R
10:01:42 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:02:13 Frank Cote, State Auditors Office
10:04:27 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:04:36 Frank Cote, State Auditors Office
10:05:50 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:06:08 John Looney, MBAA
10:07:25 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:08:13 John Looney, MBAA
10:10:29 Sen. Walt Sales
10:11:22 John Looney, MBAA
10:13:25 Sen. Walt Sales
10:14:01 John Looney, MBAA

Closing Statement:

10:14:18 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 62.
10:16:54 Sen. Fox has left

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:17:26

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230313BUSaad\)](#)