

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 13, 2023 at 2:50 PM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Jason Small (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

Staff Present: Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, 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:

HB 53 03/09/2023
HB 342 03/09/2023
HB 347 03/09/2023

Executive Action:

HB 88
HB 122
HB 347
HB 53
HB 342

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 88 - Revise third-party permission at state superfund sites

14:52:32 **Motion:** Sen. Shane Morigeau moved that **HB 88 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

14:53:16 Jason Mohr

14:53:22 Sen. Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.

14:53:37 Vice Chair Walt Sales

14:52:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:52:32 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

14:54:35 Sen. Usher has arrived

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 122 - Revise solicitation requirements for water projects

14:55:07 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 122 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

14:55:45 Jason Mohr

14:55:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:55:07 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Shane Morigeau

14:57:33 Sen. Small has arrived

14:57:49 **Recessed**

15:04:56 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 347 - Define administrative deficiencies for certain mining operations

Opening Statement:

15:05:11 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 347, Define administrative deficiencies for certain mining operations.

Proponent Testimony:

15:08:00 Mat Vincent, Executive Director, Montana Mining Association

15:09:08 Dave Galt, Montana Contractors Association

15:09:41 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:11:01 Dan Walsh, Mining Bureau Chief, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

15:11:29 Sen. Bob Brown

15:11:44 Dan Walsh, DEQ

15:12:29 Dave Galt, Montana Contractor Association

15:12:51 Sen. Bob Brown

Closing Statement:

15:13:17 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 347.

HEARING ON HB 53 - Revise fund transfer dates for DNRC accounts

Opening Statement:

15:14:46 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB 53, Revise fund transfer dates for DNRC accounts.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230313NASa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:19:06 Rex Renk, Department of Natural Resources Conservation (DNRC)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:21:57 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:22:48 Rex Renk, DNRC
15:23:23 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:23:38 Vice Chair Walt Sales
15:23:53 Rex Renk, DNRC

Closing Statement:

15:25:01 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, closed the hearing on HB 53.

HEARING ON HB 342 - Allow certain emergency agencies copies of reports

Opening Statement:

15:26:52 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 342, Allow certain emergency agencies copies of reports.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:29:07 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau
15:29:28 Rep. Denley Loge-R
15:30:13 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:30:29 Rep. Denley Loge-R
15:31:07 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:31:34 Rep. Denley Loge-R
15:32:12 Vice Chair Walt Sales
15:32:43 Rep. Denley Loge-R

Closing Statement:

15:34:00 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 342.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 347 - Define administrative deficiencies for certain mining operations

15:35:53 **Motion:** Sen. Shane Morigeau moved that **HB 347 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:35:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:35:53 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Shane Morigeau

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 53 - Revise fund transfer dates for DNRC accounts

15:37:13 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 53 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:37:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:37:13 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 342 - Allow certain emergency agencies copies of reports

15:38:04 **Motion:** Sen. Shane Morigeau moved that **HB 342 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:38:04 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:38:04 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Ryan Lynch

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:39:04

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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