

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Small-R, on March 14, 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. Walt Sales (R)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

**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 115 03/10/2023

HB 154 03/10/2023

HB 281 03/10/2023

Executive Action:

HB 144 BE CONCURRED IN

HB 155 BE CONCURRED IN AS  
AMENDED

HB 187 BE CONCURRED IN

HB 263 BE CONCURRED IN

HB 281 BE CONCURRED IN

**HEARING ON HB 281 - Revise the burial preservation board member terms**

**Opening Statement:**

08:30:32 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 281, Revise the burial preservation board member terms.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:32:03 Lieutenant Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

08:32:36 Don Harris, Department of Administration (DOA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:33:12 Sen. Walt Sales

08:34:19 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:37:24 Don Harris, DOA

08:38:10 Chair Jason Small

08:38:40 Don Harris, DOA

08:38:56 Chair Jason Small

08:39:00 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

08:39:31 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:39:55 Don Harris, DOA

**Closing Statement:**

08:40:17 Rep. Tony Brockman (R), HD 9, closed the hearing on HB 281.

**HEARING ON HB 154 - Remove licensure requirement for medication aides**

**Opening Statement:**

08:40:46 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 154, Remove licensure requirement for medication aides.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:42:45 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

08:43:14 Jill Sark, Montana Healthcare Association (MHA)

[EXHIBIT\(230314BUSa1\)](#)

08:44:30 Heather O'Hara, Montana Hospital Association (MHA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:45:59 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:46:47 Eric Strauss, DLI

08:47:14 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:47:55 Eric Strauss, DLI

08:48:21 Sen. Walt Sales

08:49:24 Eric Strauss, DLI

**Closing Statement:**

08:49:53 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 154.

**HEARING ON HB 115 - Consolidating and clarifying penalties for unlicensed practice**

**Opening Statement:**

08:50:42 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 115, Consolidating and clarifying penalties for unlicensed practice.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:54:59 Quinlan O'Connor, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:57:59 Chair Jason Small

08:58:09 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

08:59:00 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:02:17 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

09:03:48 Sen. Walt Sales

09:04:32 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

**Closing Statement:**

09:05:33 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 115.

09:06:00 Discussion of upcoming executive action and accompanying amendments.

09:15:31 **Recessed**

09:18:26 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

09:26:15 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 144 - Generally revise laws related to competitive bidding requirements**

09:26:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 144 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:43:08 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:26:26 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 155 - Generally revise laws related to alcohol licenses**

09:27:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 155 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:27:31 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 155 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:28:07 Erin Sullivan

09:27:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:28:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 155 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

09:28:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:28:58 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 187 - Establish that child care is a residential use of property**

09:29:53 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 187 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:30:07 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 187 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

09:30:30 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

09:30:46 Sen. Walt Sales

09:30:07 **Vote:** Motion failed 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Noland, voting yes.

09:31:48 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 187 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:31:48 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:31:48 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 263 - Revise insurance coverage for prescription eyedrop refills**

09:32:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 263 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:32:33 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:32:33 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Carl Glimm

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 281 - Revise the burial preservation board member terms**

09:33:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 281 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:33:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:33:06 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 09:34:04

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Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230314BUSaad\)](#)