

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: Chair Bruce Gillespie-R, on March 16, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 335

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Bruce Gillespie, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

Staff Present: Grace Gibney, Secretary
Trevor Graff, Research Analyst
Heather Vande-Sandt, 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 388 03/14/2023

HB 418 03/14/2023

HB 767 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 388 - Increase penalty for uninspected livestock

Opening Statement:

15:02:21 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 388, Increase penalty for uninspected livestock.

Proponent Testimony:

15:02:46 Mike Honeycutt, Executive Director, Montana Department of Livestock, (MDOL)

15:06:08 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:07:12 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:08:27 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie

15:09:45 Mike Honeycutt, MDOL

15:12:07 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

15:12:52 Mike Honeycutt, MDOL

15:16:05 Sen. Wendy McKamey

15:17:20 Mike Honeycutt, MDOL

Closing Statement:

15:17:39 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 388.

HEARING ON HB 767 - Provide board review of brands

Opening Statement:

15:18:32 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 767, Provide board review of brands.

Proponent Testimony:

15:18:59 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:20:13 Jay Bodger, Montana Department of Livestock (DOL)

Questions from Committee:

15:20:47 Sen. Wendy McKamey

15:20:49 Jay Bodner, DOL

15:21:33 Sen. Wendy McKamey

15:22:03 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

15:22:10 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

15:22:39 Jay Bodner, DOL

15:25:08 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie

15:27:11 Jay Bodner, DOL

Closing Statement:

15:27:46 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 767.

HEARING ON HB 418 - Revise limitations on irrigable acreage

Opening Statement:

15:34:06 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 418, Revise limitations on irrigable acreage.

Proponent Testimony:

15:35:26 Erling Juel, Greenfield Irrigation District

15:42:19 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

15:43:50 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

Opponent Testimony:

15:45:09 Spencer Pearson, self

15:50:02 Holton Pearson, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:53:24 Sen. Wendy McKamey

15:54:45 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R

15:56:16 Sen. Wendy McKamey

15:56:55 Erling Juel, Greenfield Irrigation District

15:57:58 Chair Mike Lang joined the meeting.

16:03:30 Sen. Wendy McKamey

16:04:09 Mike Murphy, MWRA

16:05:52 Sen. Dan Bartel

16:06:33 Erling Juel, Greenfield Irrigation District

16:09:38 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie

16:10:32 Erling Juel, Greenfield Irrigation District

16:13:47 Sen. Shannon O'Brien

16:14:35 Spencer Pearson, self

16:21:40 Sen. Dan Bartel

16:21:59 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R

Closing Statement:

16:22:08 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 418.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:23:06

Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230316AGSaad\)](#)