

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: Chair Steve Hinebauch-R, on March 16, 2023 at 2:51 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Fox, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)

Staff Present: Casey Pallister, Research Analyst
Lynnette Sena, 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 131 03/13/2023
HB 596 03/13/2023
HB 635 03/13/2023

Executive Action:

HB 42 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 74 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 146 BE CONCURRED IN
SB 298 TO TAKE FROM THE
TABLE

14:51:32 Sen. McClafferty has arrived

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 42 - Revise laws related to FWP employee firearm use

14:51:57 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 42 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

14:52:01 Chair Steve Hinebauch

14:52:25 Sen. John Fuller

14:52:30 Chair Steve Hinebauch

14:51:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:51:57 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bob Brown

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 74 - Eliminate requirement to release pheasants from Upland Game Bird Program

14:53:33 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 74 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

14:53:55 Sen. Bob Brown

14:53:33 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:53:33 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Pat Flowers

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 146 - Create landowner preference to hunt deer and antelope

14:55:23 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 146 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

14:53:33 Sen. Bob Brown

14:55:53 Sen. Willis Curdy

14:55:57 Chair Steve Hinebauch

14:55:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. McClafferty, voting no.

14:55:23 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bob Brown

14:56:38 Sen. Flowers has left

14:57:34 Sen. Hertz has left

14:59:36 Vice Chair Brown has left

HEARING ON HB 131 - Remove 24 hour wait requirement for wolf license

Opening Statement:

14:58:11 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 131, Remove 24 hour wait requirement for wolf license.

Proponent Testimony:

14:59:01 Garrett Bacon, self

14:59:46 Michael McKenrick, self

15:00:21 Ron Howell, Chief of Enforcement Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:02:19 Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association

Opponent Testimony:

15:03:36 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:04:51 Sen. Edie McClafferty

15:05:42 Ron Howell, FWP

Closing Statement:

15:05:57 Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R), HD 68, closed the hearing on HB 131.

HEARING ON HB 596 - Revise elk hunting access agreement licenses

Opening Statement:

15:06:41 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 596, Revise elk hunting access agreement licenses.

Proponent Testimony:

- 15:10:44 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), Montana Citizens' Elk Management Coalition (MCEMC)
- 15:11:37 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)
- 15:12:26 Dusty Crary, President, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)
- 15:13:09 Kevin Farron, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)
- 15:14:48 Scott Vollmer, Director at Large, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)
- 15:16:24 Gerald Martin, self
- 15:17:05 Paul Ellis, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 15:18:40 Hope Stockwell, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division Administrator, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

- 15:19:12 Sen. Edie McClafferty
- 15:20:30 Hope Stockwell, FWP
- 15:21:07 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 15:21:34 Gerald Martin, self
- 15:22:30 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 15:23:18 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
- 15:23:39 Hope Stockwell, FWP
- 15:24:12 Sen. Willis Curdy
- 15:26:00 Hope Stockwell, FWP

15:26:15 Sen. Mark Noland

15:26:52 Rep. Denley Loge

Closing Statement:

15:28:05 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 596.

HEARING ON HB 635 - Revise laws related to nonresident hunting and fishing

Opening Statement:

15:31:54 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 635, Revise laws related to nonresident hunting and fishing.

Proponent Testimony:

15:33:19 Dusty Crary, President, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

15:35:42 Chris Marchion, self

15:38:42 Kendall VanDyke, self

15:41:35 Gerald Martin, self

15:44:26 Hannah Downey, Property and Environment Research Center (PERC)

15:46:01 Scott Vollmer, Director at Large, Montana Outfitter and Guides Association (MOGA)

15:48:46 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), Montana Citizens' Elk Management Coalition (MCEMC)

[EXHIBIT\(230316FISa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230316FISa2\)](#)

15:51:46 Justin Schaaf, Montana Citizens' Elk Management Coalition (MCEMC)

15:53:30 Paul Ellis, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

15:55:08 Mike Mershon, self

15:56:50 Liz McFarland, self

15:58:26 Michael Korn, self
[EXHIBIT\(230316FISa3\)](#)
16:01:00 Andrew McKean, self
16:02:50 Jim Bjornemo, Anaconda Sportsmen Club

Opponent Testimony:

16:03:45 Kevin Farron, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)
16:07:15 Steve Platt, Helena Hunters and Anglers
[EXHIBIT\(230316FISa4\)](#)
16:09:16 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)
16:12:08 Walker Conyngham, President, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
[EXHIBIT\(230316FISa5\)](#)
16:14:19 Rod Bullis, self
16:14:42 Sen. Pat Flowers joined the meeting.
16:16:00 Jake Schwaller, self
16:19:02 Jock Conyngham, self
16:22:00 John Sullivan, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)
16:24:05 Doug Hunter, self
16:25:32 Garrett Sere day, Bridger Bowmen
16:27:15 Dane Rider, Traditional Bowhunters of Montana
16:28:47 Tanner Macal, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:30:40 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:31:07 Sen. John Fuller

16:32:53 Kevin Farron, BHA
16:33:10 Sen. Mark Noland
16:33:35 Hannah Downey, PERC
16:34:18 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:35:29 John Sullivan, BHA
16:36:00 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:37:09 Kendall VanDyke, self
16:37:35 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.
16:38:21 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:39:25 Hannah Downey, PERC
16:40:05 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:40:52 Kevin Farron, BHA
16:42:41 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:43:00 Ben Lamb, MWF, MCEMC
16:43:39 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:44:11 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:44:28 Chair Steve Hinebauch
16:44:37 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:44:44 Chair Steve Hinebauch
16:47:34 Dusty Crary, MOGA
16:48:01 Vice Chair Bob Brown joined the meeting.

Closing Statement:

16:49:06 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 635.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 298 - Revise laws related to hunting by disabled persons

16:50:02 **Motion:** Sen. Daniel Emrich moved that **SB 298 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

16:50:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. McClafferty, voting no.

Discussion:

16:52:15 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:52:31 Sen. Greg Hertz

16:52:47 Sen. Willis Curdy

16:52:50 Sen. Greg Hertz

16:52:58 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:53:12 Sen. Greg Hertz

16:53:20 Vice Chair Bob Brown

16:53:27 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:53:31 Sen. Greg Hertz

16:53:44 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:54:44 Casey Pallister

16:55:47 Sen. Greg Hertz

16:55:55 Casey Pallister

16:57:14 Vice Chair Bob Brown

16:58:11 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:58:37 Sen. Greg Hertz

16:59:02 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:59:10 Vice Chair Bob Brown

16:59:25 Sen. Daniel Emrich

16:59:33 Vice Chair Bob Brown

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:00:32

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

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