

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Hinebauch-R, on March 21, 2023 at 2:52 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Greg Hertz (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 217 03/13/2023
HB 243 03/14/2023
HB 290 03/13/2023
HB 593 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

HB 635 BE CONCURRED IN
HB 131 BE CONCURRED IN
SB 298 DO PASS AS AMENDED

14:53:08 **Recessed**

14:56:25 Sen. Hertz has arrived

14:56:50 **Reconvened**

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

14:57:16 **Motion:** Sen. Greg Hertz moved that **HB 635 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

14:57:34 Sen. Willis Curdy

14:58:18 Sen. Greg Hertz

14:58:46 Chair Steve Hinebauch

14:59:04 Sen. John Fuller

14:57:16 **Vote:** Motion carried 10 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. McClafferty,
voting no.
Sen. McClafferty, By Proxy

14:57:16 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bob Brown

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

15:00:54 **Motion:** Sen. Greg Hertz moved that **HB 131 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:00:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 11 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. McClafferty, voting no.
Sen. McClafferty, By Proxy

15:00:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Emrich

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

15:02:02 **Motion:** Sen. Greg Hertz moved that **SB 298 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

15:02:16 Sen. Hertz

15:03:21 Sen. John Fuller

15:02:02 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers,
Sen. McClafferty, Sen. Noland, voting no.
Sen. Flowers, Sen. McClafferty, By Proxy

15:07:55 Sen. McClafferty has arrived
15:08:43 Sen. Hertz has left

HEARING ON HB 217 - Increase fees for migratory bird licenses

Opening Statement:

15:06:16 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB 217, Increase fees for migratory bird licenses.

[EXHIBIT\(230321FISa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:09:30 Bob Sanders, Manager of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited (DU)
15:11:16 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)
15:12:35 Peter Dudley, Montana Audubon
15:13:11 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
15:13:40 Steve Christian, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:14:47 Joy Ross, Acting Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:15:10 Sen. Daniel Emrich
15:15:42 Joy Ross, FWP
15:16:51 Chair Steve Hinebauch
15:17:20 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:17:56 Rep. Gary Parry
15:18:20 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
15:19:26 Rep. Gary Parry

15:20:02 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:20:34 Rep. Gary Parry

Closing Statement:

15:21:08 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, closed the hearing on HB 217.

HEARING ON HB 290 - Revise laws related to membership of wetlands protection advisory council

Opening Statement:

15:22:01 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB 290, Revise laws related to membership of wetlands protection advisory council.

Proponent Testimony:

15:24:33 Robert Sanders, Manager of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited (DU)

15:25:18 Peter Dudley, Montana Audubon

15:26:10 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:26:40 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited

15:27:43 Steve Christian, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:28:58 Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Wildlife Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:29:24 Sen. John Fuller

15:30:05 Rep. Gary Parry

15:30:36 Sen. John Fuller

15:31:23 Lauri Hanauska-Brown, FWP

15:31:36 Chair Steve Hinebauch

15:34:13 Robert Sanders, DU
15:34:44 Sen. John Fuller
15:34:57 Robert Sanders, DU
15:36:12 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:36:58 Greg Lemon, Communication and Education Division Administrator,
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Closing Statement:

15:37:18 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 39, closed the hearing on HB 290.

15:39:12 **Recessed**

15:43:12 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 243 - Revise hunter education laws

Opening Statement:

15:44:00 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HB 243, Revise
hunter education laws.
15:44:14 Sen. Flowers has arrived

Proponent Testimony:

15:50:02 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)
15:52:36 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), Montana Citizens Elk
Management Coalition (MCEMC)
15:54:23 Neil Duram, Representative, HD 2
[EXHIBIT\(230321FISa2\)](#)
15:59:33 Scott Boulanger, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)
15:59:52 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
(MT BHA)
16:01:12 Jeremy Harwood, Montana Bowhunters Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:02:12 Lena Havron, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:02:58 Sen. John Fuller

16:03:20 Greg Lemon, Communication and Education Division Administrator, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

16:04:11 Sen. Daniel Emrich

16:05:14 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:06:15 Vice Chair Mike Fox

16:06:31 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:07:21 Vice Chair Mike Fox

16:07:38 Greg Lemon, FWP

16:09:30 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:09:51 Greg Lemon, FWP

16:11:41 Sen. Terry Vermeire

16:12:59 Rep. Neil Duram

Closing Statement:

16:13:25 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, closed the hearing on HB 243.

16:14:02 Vice Chair Brown has arrived

HEARING ON HB 593 - Revise FWP laws related to publishing the number of nonresident licenses

Opening Statement:

16:15:36 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, opened the hearing on HB 593, Revise FWP laws related to publishing the number of nonresident licenses.

Proponent Testimony:

16:18:22 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)

16:19:24 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

16:20:35 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)

16:21:39 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Broadcasters Association

16:22:18 Jeremy Harwood, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:23:07 Joy Ross, Acting Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:23:32 Sen. Bob Brown

16:24:04 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:24:23 Sen. John Fuller

16:24:57 Joy Ross, FWP

16:25:12 Sen. John Fuller

16:25:20 Emily Cooper, Acting Division Administrator for Operations and Financial Services Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

16:26:03 Sen. Bob Brown

16:26:40 Joy Ross, FWP

16:26:46 Sen. Bob Brown

16:27:15 Chair Steve Hinebauch

16:27:32 Sen. Pat Flowers

16:28:36 Sen. Bob Brown

Closing Statement:

16:28:57 Rep. Marilyn Marler (D), HD 90, closed the hearing on HB 593.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:31:02

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230321FISaad\)](#)