

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

Call to Order: Chair Keith Regier-R, on March 22, 2023 at 7:59 AM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Keith Regier, Chair (R)
Sen. Barry Usher, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Jen Gross (D)
Sen. Kathy Kelker (D)

Staff Present: Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney
Grace Gibney, 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 410 03/16/2023
HB 525 03/15/2023
HB 661 03/15/2023
HB 689 03/15/2023
HB 513 03/17/2023
HB 560 03/17/2023
HB 584 03/17/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 525 - Enhance penalties for certain sexual crimes

Opening Statement:

08:00:48 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, opened the hearing on HB 525, Enhance penalties for certain sexual crimes.

Proponent Testimony:

08:02:25 Mercedes Oxford-Kemp, self

08:05:00 Jennifer Hensley, Hensley and Associates LLC

08:07:01 Dan Smith, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:08:16 Sen. Daniel Emrich

08:08:50 Rep. Amy Regier-R

08:09:10 Sen. Andrea Olsen

08:10:13 Jennifer Hensley, Hensley and Associates LLC

08:12:28 Sen. Theresa Manzella

08:13:38 Mercedes Oxford-Kemp, self

08:14:30 Sen. Susan Webber

08:15:19 Rep. Amy Regier-R

08:15:34 Sen. Susan Webber

08:15:38 Jennifer Hensley, Hensley and Associates LLC

Closing Statement:

08:19:06 Rep. Amy Regier (R), HD 6, closed the hearing on HB 525.

HEARING ON HB 661 - Allowing court to consider dangerousness/lethality assessment

Opening Statement:

08:19:37 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 661, Allowing court to consider dangerousness/lethality assessment.

Proponent Testimony:

08:20:25 Robin Turner, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

08:22:23 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protective Association (MPPA)

08:22:57 Benjamin Halverson, Domestic Violence Prosecutor, City of Billings

Opponent Testimony:

08:26:16 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU MT)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:27:42 Sen. Theresa Manzella

08:27:57 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe-R

08:29:39 Benjamin Halverson, Domestic Violence Prosecutor, City of Billings

08:33:01 Sen. Susan Webber

08:33:24 Benjamin Halverson, Domestic Violence Prosecutor, City of Billings

08:35:36 Chair Keith Regier

08:35:57 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe-R

08:37:19 Sen. Chris Friedel

08:37:36 Benjamin Halverson, Domestic Violence Prosecutor, City of Billings

08:40:57 Sen. Theresa Manzella

08:41:16 Benjamin Halverson, Domestic Violence Prosecutor, City of Billings

Closing Statement:

08:42:56 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 661.

HEARING ON HB 410 - Establish a time limit for service of process

Opening Statement:

08:44:02 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 410, Establish a time limit for service of process.

Proponent Testimony:

08:46:41 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

08:47:08 Brian Thompson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponent Testimony:

08:47:42 Sean Slanger, Montana State Bar (MSB)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:51:39 Vice Chair Barry Usher

08:52:05 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

08:52:35 Sen. Andrea Olsen

08:53:14 Sean Slanger, MSB

Closing Statement:

08:55:51 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, closed the hearing on HB 410.

HEARING ON HB 513 - Require consideration of harm of removal in child abuse and neglect cases

Opening Statement:

08:57:02 Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R), HD 69, opened the hearing on HB 513, Require consideration of harm of removal in child abuse and neglect cases.

Proponent Testimony:

09:02:42 Beth Brenneman, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)

09:03:18 Denise Johnson, Montana Child Protection Alliance (MCPA)

Opponent Testimony:

09:07:15 Nikki Grossberg, Division Administrator, Child and Family Services,
Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:09:22 Sen. Susan Webber
09:10:14 Rep. Jennifer Carlson-R
09:10:37 Chair Keith Regier
09:11:33 Rep. Jennifer Carlson-R
09:12:08 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:13:09 Beth Brenneman, MCADSV
09:13:48 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:15:50 Nikki Grossberg, DPHHS
09:16:02 Sen. Theresa Manzella
09:16:13 Nikki Grossberg, DPHHS

Closing Statement:

09:17:15 Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R), HD 69, closed the hearing on HB 513.

**HEARING ON HB 584 - Revise government lawsuit laws relating to firearms and
ammunition**

Opening Statement:

09:19:42 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 584,
Revise government lawsuit laws relating to firearms and ammunition.

Proponent Testimony:

09:21:19 Garrett Bacon, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:22:09 Sen. Theresa Manzella
09:23:11 Rep. George Nikolakakos-R
09:23:46 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:24:40 Rep. George Nikolakakos-R
09:27:07 Chair Keith Regier
09:27:19 Sen. Andrea Olsen
09:27:47 Sen. Theresa Manzella
09:28:42 Rep. George Nikolakakos-R

Closing Statement:

09:29:04 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 584.

HEARING ON HB 560 - Revise laws related to adoption

Opening Statement:

10:06:03 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 560, Revise laws related to adoption.

Proponent Testimony:

10:10:00 Nikki Grossberg, Division Administrator, Child and Family Services, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
10:10:50 Trudi Paulson, Family Services Director, Saint John's United
10:12:23 Lori Kopp, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

10:13:29 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HB 560.

HEARING ON HB 689 - Revise probation/parole supervision laws

Opening Statement:

10:15:51 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, opened the hearing on HB 689, Revise probation/parole supervision laws.

Proponent Testimony:

10:19:16 Brian Thompson, Montana County Attorneys Association (MCAA)

10:20:07 Joshua Racki, Cascade County Attorney's Office (CCAO)

Opponent Testimony:

10:24:18 Maggie Bornstein, Montana Women Vote (MWV), American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU MT)

[EXHIBIT\(230322JUSa1\)](#)

10:27:49 Steve Cape, Montana Coalition for Safety and Justice (MCSJ)

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:37:10 Jim Anderson, Public Safety Chief, Montana Department of Corrections (DOC)

10:37:30 Brett Schandelson, Montana Office of The Public Defender (OPD)

Questions from Committee:

10:38:07 Sen. Susan Webber

10:39:13 Joshua Racki, CCAO

10:40:26 Sen. Andrea Olsen

10:40:46 Brett Schandelson, OPD

10:44:01 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:45:02 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway-R
10:45:07 Jim Anderson, DOC
10:48:01 Vice Chair Barry Usher
10:48:31 Joshua Racki, CCAO
10:50:41 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:51:28 Brett Schandelson, OPD
10:53:51 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:54:32 Jim Anderson, DOC
10:56:05 Vice Chair Barry Usher
10:56:50 Jim Anderson, DOC

Closing Statement:

10:57:41 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R), HD 22, closed the hearing on HB 689.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:59:17

Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230322JUSaad\)](#)