

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 22, 2023 at 3:05 PM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Jason Small (R)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

Staff Present: Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling, 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 270 03/17/2023

HB 586 03/17/2023

HB 641 03/17/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 641 - Allow environmental impact reviews beyond Montana's borders

Opening Statement:

15:06:40 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 641, Allow environmental impact reviews beyond Montana's borders.

Proponent Testimony:

15:09:11 Darryl James, Independent Consultant Helena

15:10:53 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resource Association

15:11:34 George Harris, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:13:19 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:13:49 Darryl James

Closing Statement:

15:15:22 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 641.

HEARING ON HB 586 - Allow fossils found on state lands to be housed in local museums

Opening Statement:

15:18:46 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 586, Allow fossils found on state lands to be housed in local museums.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:22:04 Shawn Thomas, Forestry Trust lands Industry

Questions from Committee:

15:22:43 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:23:22 Rep. Greg Oblander-R

15:24:13 Sen. Barry Usher

15:27:17 Rep. Greg Oblander-R

15:27:52 Sen. Mike Lang

15:28:47 James Darryl

15:31:19 Sen. Mike Lang

Closing Statement:

15:31:37 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, closed the hearing on HB 586.

HEARING ON HB 270 - Extend sunset on natural resource operation funding

Opening Statement:

15:33:49 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 270, Extend sunset on natural resource operation funding.

Proponent Testimony:

15:34:41 Sonja Nowakowski, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

[EXHIBIT\(230322NASa1\)](#)

15:40:41 Mark Brostrum, Department of Natural Resources Conservation (DNRC)

15:42:09 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association

15:43:30 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:45:29 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:46:09 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

15:46:58 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:47:51 Mark Brostrum, DNRC

Closing Statement:

15:48:28 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 270.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:50:15

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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