

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on March 24, 2023 at 8:01 AM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jason Small, Chair (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mark Noland, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Staff Present: Lynnette Sena, Secretary
Erin Sullivan, 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 371 03/17/2023
HB 427 03/17/2023
HB 468 03/17/2023
HB 490 03/22/2023
HB 691 03/17/2023
HB 702 03/17/2023
HB 770 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

HB 302
HB 505
HB 524
HB 665
HB 710
HB 777

HEARING ON HB 468 - Revise unemployment insurance laws relating to job-attached employees

Opening Statement:

08:04:33 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 468, Revise unemployment insurance laws relating to job-attached employees.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

08:12:02 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

08:13:29 Luke Hoffer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 233

08:15:15 Haden Lohr, Operating Engineers Union Local 400

08:16:03 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 44

08:17:33 Mark Anderlik, Montana Democratic Socialists of America

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:18:28 Quinlan O'Connor, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Questions from Committee:

08:18:51 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:19:45 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

08:21:29 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

08:22:03 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:23:09 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

08:23:45 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:24:34 Rep. Jane Gillette-R

08:25:47 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:26:16 David Smith, MCA
08:26:52 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:27:56 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI
08:28:52 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:29:18 Luke Hoffer, IBEW 233
08:30:10 Sen. Walt Sales
08:32:51 Rep. Jane Gillette-R
08:35:04 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:35:53 David Smith, MCA
08:36:34 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:38:26 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI

Closing Statement:

08:38:39 Rep. Jane Gillette (R), HD 64, closed the hearing on HB 468.

08:44:15 Chair Small has left

HEARING ON HB 427 - Revise military affairs laws regarding worker's compensation

Opening Statement:

08:44:12 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 427, Revise military affairs laws regarding worker's compensation.

Proponent Testimony:

08:47:24 Major J. Pete Hronek, Montana National Guard, Department of Military Affairs

08:52:16 Roger Hagan, American Legion and Montana National Guard Officer and Enlisted Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:54:17 Major Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard
08:54:47 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund
08:54:59 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
08:55:30 Janae Grotbo, Department of Military Affairs

Questions from Committee:

08:56:04 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:57:10 Janae Grotbo, Department of Military Affairs
08:57:43 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:58:13 Janae Grotbo, Department of Military Affairs
08:58:41 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:59:24 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund
08:59:44 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:01:27 Rep. Scot Kerns-R
09:02:02 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:03:40 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund
09:03:46 Sen. Walt Sales
09:04:35 Rep. Scot Kerns-R
09:05:18 Major Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard
09:06:35 Sen. Walt Sales
09:06:54 Major Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard
09:07:05 Sen. Mike Fox
09:07:35 Major Todd Wayne, Montana National Guard

Closing Statement:

09:08:26 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, closed the hearing on HB 427.

HEARING ON HB 371 - Allow state-chartered banks to own employee housing

Opening Statement:

09:10:30 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 371, Allow state-chartered banks to own employee housing.

Proponent Testimony:

09:12:07 Scott Boulanger, Montana Independent Bankers

09:12:28 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Bankers Association (MBA)

09:13:40 Scott Mizner, American Bank

09:15:54 Melanie Hall, Montana Commissioner of the Division of Banking and Financial Institutions (MT DBFI)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:18:22 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:22:52 Melanie Hall, MT DBFI

09:23:19 Sen. Walt Sales

09:26:22 Melanie Hall, MT DBFI

09:27:17 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:29:27 Cary Hegreburg, MBA

09:30:24 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:31:22 Sen. Terry Vermeire joined the meeting.

09:31:29 Sen. Terry Vermeire

09:33:12 Cary Hegreburg, MBA
09:33:50 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:34:36 Cary Hegreburg, MBA
09:35:58 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:36:18 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:37:14 Rep. Kenneth Walsh-R
09:38:15 Vice Chair Mark Noland

Closing Statement:

09:38:41 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 371.

HEARING ON HB 490 - Generally revise laws relating to independent contractor tax evasion and fraud

Opening Statement:

09:41:25 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, opened the hearing on HB 490, Generally revise laws relating to independent contractor tax evasion and fraud.

Proponent Testimony:

09:47:34 Joel Worth, Montana Carpenters Union (MCU)
09:49:56 Luke Hoffer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 233
09:50:15 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:51:56 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)
09:52:12 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund

Questions from Committee:

09:52:32 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:52:54 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund
09:53:12 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:55:16 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund
09:55:41 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:56:25 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund
09:57:28 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:58:04 Eric Strauss, DLI
09:58:44 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:59:09 Quinlan O'Connor, Department of Labor and Industry
09:59:29 Sen. Walt Sales
10:00:04 Rep. Steve Gist-R

Closing Statement:

10:02:14 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, closed the hearing on HB 490.

10:05:32 Chair Small has arrived

HEARING ON HB 691 - Generally revise department of labor laws

Opening Statement:

10:04:40 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 691,
Generally revise department of labor laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:10:59 Quinlan Oconnol, DLI

Questions from Committee:

10:11:25 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

10:12:32 Vice Chair Willis Curdy left the meeting.

10:12:56 Rep. Greg Oblander-R

10:13:04 Sen. Walt Sales

10:13:39 Rep. Greg Oblander-R

10:14:37 Sen. Walt Sales

10:14:46 Quinlan O'Connor, Department of Labor and Industry

Closing Statement:

10:15:56 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, closed the hearing on HB 691.

10:16:49 Vice Chair Noland has left

10:19:06 Vice Chair Curdy has arrived

HEARING ON HB 702 - Repeal termination date relating to certain Workers' Compensation Programs

Opening Statement:

10:17:26 Rep. Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, opened the hearing on HB 702, Repeal termination date relating to certain Workers' Compensation Programs.

Proponent Testimony:

10:19:51 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

10:20:38 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (MT AFL-CIO)

10:21:44 Adam Haight, Labors Local Union 1686

10:22:14 Luke Hoffer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 233

10:22:39 Joel Worth, Montana Carpenters Union (MCU)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:23:10 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Questions from Committee:

10:23:43 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

10:24:13 Amanda Frickle, AFL-CIO

10:24:34 Eric Strauss, DLI

10:25:04 Chair Jason Small

Closing Statement:

10:25:16 Rep. Derek Harvey (D), HD 74, closed the hearing on HB 702.

10:28:02 Vice Chair Noland has arrived

HEARING ON HB 770 - Generally revise regulation of electronic and social media communications

Opening Statement:

10:26:28 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 770, Generally revise regulation of electronic and social media communications.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

10:32:15 Christopher Marchese, NetChoice

10:33:34 Jordan Rodell, Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA)

10:35:51 Kouri Marshal, Chamber of Progress

10:38:09 Ashley Sutton, TechNet

10:40:08 Ari Cohn, TechFreedom

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:44:42 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

10:46:17 Rep. Matt Regier-R

Closing Statement:

10:46:59 Rep. Matt Regier (R), HD 4, closed the hearing on HB 770.

10:51:20 **Recessed**

10:57:24 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

10:58:01 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 302 - Insurance coverage for 12-month supply of birth control

10:58:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 302 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:58:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 302 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:59:16 Chair Jason Small

10:59:50 Erin Sullivan

11:00:43 Vice Chair Mark Noland

11:00:56 Chair Jason Small

14:29:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:01:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 302 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

11:01:50 Chair Jason Small

14:29:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:01:33 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 505 - Revise funeral insurance laws to increase minimum initial policy limit

11:03:09 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 505 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

11:03:26 Chair Jason Small

14:29:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:03:09 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 524 - Revise energy laws relating to solar panels

11:04:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 524 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

11:04:25 Chair Jason Small

11:04:40 Sen. Walt Sales

14:29:25 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, Sen. Sales, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

11:04:17 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 665 - Revise laws related to insurance coverage of breast examinations

11:06:01 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 665 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:29:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:06:01 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Dennis Lenz

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 710 - Revise pharmacist laws relating to immunization

11:06:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 710 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

11:07:13 Chair Jason Small

14:29:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:06:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 777 - Adopt the interstate counseling compact

11:08:08 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 777 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

11:08:22 Chair Jason Small

14:29:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

11:08:08 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:10:02

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230324BUSaad\)](#)