

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

Call to Order: Chair Chris Friedel-R, on March 27, 2023 at 2:44 PM, in 405

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Chris Friedel, Chair (R)
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

Staff Present: Toni Henneman, Research Analyst
Lorna Mason, 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 339 03/15/2023
HB 703 03/15/2023
HB 780 03/24/2023
SB 523 03/23/2023
SB 528 03/24/2023
SB 529 03/24/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 780 - Provide for a law enforcement officer bill of rights

Opening Statement:

15:28:45 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 780, Provide for a law enforcement officer bill of rights.

Proponent Testimony:

15:30:16 Shelby DeMars, Montana Police Protection Association (MPPA)

15:32:10 John Sinrud, self

15:34:12 Quint Nyman, Montana Public Employees Association (MPEA)

Opponent Testimony:

15:35:28 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU of Montana (ACLU)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:37:49 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

15:38:18 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

15:41:02 Shelby DeMars, MPPA

15:42:20 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

15:42:39 Shelby DeMars, MPPA

15:44:40 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:44:56 Shelby DeMars, MPPA

15:46:37 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

15:46:42 Maggie Bornstein, ACLU

Closing Statement:

15:48:23 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, closed the hearing on HB 780.

HEARING ON HB 703 - Revise housing laws related to emotional support animals

Opening Statement:

15:49:24 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 703, Revise housing laws related to emotional support animals.

Proponent Testimony:

15:54:28 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)

15:59:33 Steve Skinner, self

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:02:46 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

16:02:55 John Sinrud, MLA

16:07:03 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

16:07:34 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:07:48 Sen. Christopher Pope

16:08:26 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:13:44 John Sinrud, MLA

16:16:28 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

16:17:35 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:17:59 Chair Chris Friedel

16:18:05 John Sinrud, MLA

Closing Statement:

16:19:30 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 703.

HEARING ON HB 339 - Establish laws for autonomous vehicles

Opening Statement:

16:21:22 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 339, Establish laws for autonomous vehicles.

Discussion:

16:21:52 Sen. Jeremy Trebas left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

16:25:03 Rob Stapley, Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Opponent Testimony:

16:26:30 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

16:27:34 Sen. Jeremy Trebas joined the meeting.

16:27:40 John MacDonald, Alliance Automotive Alliance

16:31:48 Charles Denowh, Tesla

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:34:35 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

16:34:53 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:40:24 Sen. Christopher Pope

16:40:33 Rob Stapley, MDOT

16:43:10 Chair Chris Friedel

16:43:23 Rob Stapley, MDOT

16:43:44 Charles Denowh, Tesla

Closing Statement:

16:45:35 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 339.

HEARING ON SB 529 - Provide property tax exemption for wireless infrastructure

Opening Statement:

16:50:16 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 529, Provide property tax exemption for wireless infrastructure.

Proponent Testimony:

16:51:28 Glen Oppel, Policy Director, Governor's Office

16:52:37 Aimee Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless

16:53:57 Mark Baker, ATT

16:54:55 Margaret Morgan, T-Mobile

16:55:44 Jeff Feist, Local Broadband

16:56:53 Jeremy Crandall, Wireless Trade Association (WTA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:59:08 Dereck Bell, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

16:59:44 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

17:01:54 Mark Baker, ATT

17:02:42 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:02:59 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

17:05:06 Chair Chris Friedel

17:06:05 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

17:06:34 Aimee Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless

Closing Statement:

17:07:38 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 529.

HEARING ON SB 523 - Generally revise tax increment financing laws

Opening Statement:

17:09:51 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 523, Generally revise tax increment financing laws.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230327LOSa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

17:24:25 Jessie Ramos, Americans for Prosperity (AFP)

[EXHIBIT\(230327LOSa2\)](#)

17:28:21 Sandra Vasecker, City of Missoula

[EXHIBIT\(230327LOSa3\)](#)

17:30:48 Travis Mateer, self

17:32:35 Rimbrand Miller, self

17:34:16 Nate White, self

17:36:03 Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

17:37:27 Brian West, self

17:39:05 Henry Kriegel, self

[EXHIBIT\(230327LOSa4\)](#)

17:40:58 Susan Campbell, self

17:42:33 Isaac Edikausks, self

17:43:41 Victoria Foster, self

17:45:33 Wyatt Lapram, self

17:47:08 Joe Framett, self

17:47:54 Allen Ault, self

17:49:06 Bunny Haines, self

17:50:12 Hugh Jesse, self
17:51:04 Maggie Borgstein, self
17:52:19 Robert Moore, self
17:57:45 Lana Hamilton, self
17:59:12 Darcy Ermager, self
18:00:15 Matt Price, self
18:01:20 Taylor Ramos, self
18:02:08 Ian Crowe, self
18:03:45 John Kevin Hunt, self
18:06:45 Chris Kennedy, self

Opponent Testimony:

18:08:09 Brad Talcott, self
18:13:48 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)
18:14:50 Craig Rickerts, self
18:17:14 Emily Brock, Missoula County
18:18:46 Brad Archbault, self
18:20:34 Jeff Smith, Engineering
18:22:20 Ellen Buchanan, Missoula Rebuild
[EXHIBIT\(230327LOSa5\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230327LOSa6\)](#)
18:24:45 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Banker's Association (MBA)
18:27:03 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)
18:28:55 Todd O'Hare, Montana Chamber of Commerce (COC)
18:29:56 Karen Byrnes, City of Butte and Silver Bow

18:32:11 Kristen Rosa, City of Butte and Silver Bow
18:33:47 Janet Cornish, self
18:36:00 David Fine, City of Bozeman
18:37:42 SK Rossi, City of Belgrade
18:40:06 Jay Skoog, American Council of Engineering Company (ACEC)
18:41:46 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MTLCT)
18:44:05 Brett Doney, City of Great Falls
18:46:29 Nicole Rush, City of Missoula
18:48:44 Joe Walsh, self
18:50:54 Sara Hudson, City of Lewistown City of Roundup
18:53:36 Lee Humphrey, self
18:53:59 Katie Easton, City of Billings
18:57:12 Mehmet Casey, City of Billings
18:59:47 Matt Ellis, self
19:01:57 Glenn Tremper, self
19:04:37 Evan Barrett, self
19:06:46 Robert Wolfenden, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

19:07:46 Nathan Bilyeu, self

Questions from Committee:

19:08:52 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
19:09:58 Kelly Lynch, MTLCT
19:11:41 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
19:12:35 Kelly Lynch, MTLCT
19:13:42 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

19:14:16 Sen. Greg Hertz-R
19:15:36 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
19:15:55 Sen. Greg Hertz-R
19:16:32 Chair Chris Friedel
19:16:39 Cary Hegreberg, MBA
19:18:28 Todd O'Hare, COC
19:24:24 Kelly Lynch, MTLCT
19:30:23 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell
19:35:30 Nathan Bilyeu, self
19:38:50 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
19:39:40 Ellen Buchanan, self
19:43:31 Chair Chris Friedel
19:44:01 Sen. Greg Hertz-R

Closing Statement:

19:46:14 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 523.

HEARING ON SB 528 - Revise zoning laws related to ADUs

Opening Statement:

20:00:10 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 528, Revise zoning laws related to ADUs.

Proponent Testimony:

20:03:50 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)
20:06:27 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish
20:07:42 Ethan Hanley, Student Government of
20:08:11 Henry Griegle, Americans for Prosperity (AFP)

Opponent Testimony:

20:09:09 Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Town (MLCT)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

20:14:21 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
20:15:06 Sponsor
20:17:40 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell
20:18:03 Sponsor
20:19:30 Sam Sill, MAR
20:20:03 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell
20:20:07 Jake Brown, self
20:21:16 Chair Chris Friedel
20:21:24 Jake Brown, self
20:22:27 Chair Chris Friedel
20:22:42 Sponsor

Closing Statement:

20:22:53 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 528.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:06:20

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230327LOSaad\)](#)