

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 27, 2023 at 3:22 PM, in 303

ROLL CALL

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

Members Excused: Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (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 289 03/22/2023
SR 45 03/22/2023
SR 62 03/22/2023
SR 63 03/22/2023

Executive Action:

SR 62 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
AS AMENDED
SR 63 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
AS AMENDED
HB 270
HB 586
HB 641

15:23:40 Vice Chair Morigeau has arrived

15:27:20 Sen. Flowers has arrived

HEARING ON HB 289 - Revise notification of owner's costs for oil/gas well

Opening Statement:

15:23:06 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 289, Revise notification of owner's costs for oil/gas well.

Proponent Testimony:

15:26:21 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:30:18 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, closed the hearing on HB 289.

HEARING ON SR 62 - Confirm governor's appointees for board of environmental review

Opening Statement:

15:36:00 Chair Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR 62, Confirm governor's appointees for board of environmental review.

Proponent Testimony:

15:37:00 Hannah Slusser, Govenors Office

[EXHIBIT\(230327NASa1\)](#)

15:39:48 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

15:40:52 Julia Altemus, appointee

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:42:06 Sen. Mike Lang

15:43:02 Vice Chair Walt Sales

Closing Statement:

15:43:12 Chair Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, closed the hearing on SR 62.

HEARING ON SR 63 - Confirm governor's appointee for board of environmental review

Opening Statement:

15:43:56 Chair Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR 63, Confirm governor's appointee for board of environmental review.

Proponent Testimony:

15:44:53 Hannah Slusser, Govenors Office

15:45:39 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

15:46:27 Stacy Aguirre, appointee

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:48:07 Sen. Barry Usher

Closing Statement:

15:48:38 Chair Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, closed the hearing on SR 63.

15:49:48 **Recessed**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 62 - Confirm governor's appointees for board of environmental review

15:55:53 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SR 62 RESOLUTION NOT ADOPTED.**

15:56:00 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SR 62 BE AMENDED.**

15:56:00 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:57:13 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SR 62 RESOLUTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

15:57:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:56:54 Sen. Gillespie has left

15:56:59 Sen. Lynch has left

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 63 - Confirm governor's appointee for board of environmental review

15:57:41 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SR 63 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

Discussion:

15:58:04 Jason Mohr

15:58:21 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SR 63 BE AMENDED.**

15:58:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:59:02 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SR 63 RESOLUTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

15:59:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 270 - Extend sunset on natural resource operation funding

16:01:29 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 270 BE CONCURRED IN.**

16:01:43 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 270 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

16:02:05 Jason Mohr

16:01:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:03:45 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 270 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

16:03:45 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:03:45 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Lang

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

16:05:01 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 586 BE CONCURRED IN.**

16:05:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:05:01 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Barry Usher

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

16:06:21 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 641 BE CONCURRED IN.**

16:06:21 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:06:21 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Shane Morigeau

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:07:25

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

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