

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Lang-R, on March 28, 2023 at 3:13 PM, in 335

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Mike Lang, Chair (R)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Susan Webber, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Staff Present:** Grace Gibney, Secretary  
Trevor Graff, Research Analyst  
Devlin Kelly, Remote Meeting Coordinator

**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 738 03/15/2023  
SR 64 03/22/2023

Executive Action:

HB 158  
HB 159  
HB 388  
HB 418  
SR 64 DO PASS  
HB 767  
HB 662 TO TABLE  
HB 738

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 158 - Revise custom exempt facilities as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act**

15:14:28 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **HB 158 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:14:28 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Wendy McKamey

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 159 - Repeal Livestock Crimestoppers Act**

15:15:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **HB 159 BE CONCURRED IN.**

12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:15:58 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 388 - Increase penalty for uninspected livestock**

15:17:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **HB 388 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:18:07 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie

15:18:21 Sen. Wendy McKamey

12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:17:55 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Dan Bartel

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 418 - Revise limitations on irrigable acreage**

15:19:07 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **HB 418 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:19:16 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

15:20:12 Sen. Wendy McKamey

12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:19:07 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Lang

**HEARING ON SR 64 - Confirm governor's appointees for board of livestock**

**Opening Statement:**

15:27:12 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SR 64, Confirm governor's appointees for board of livestock.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:27:22 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office  
15:27:56 Nina Baucus, Governors Appointee  
15:31:26 Lilian Andersen, Governors Appointee  
15:32:25 William Kliensasser, Governors Appointee  
15:33:41 Mike Honeycutt, Montana Board of Livestock  
15:35:05 Kenny Reese, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSA)  
15:36:30 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
15:37:46 Krista Evans, Montana Milk Producers Association (MMPA)  
15:39:00 Eria Somerfeld, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
15:39:48 Mike Talia, self  
15:40:13 Cali Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association (MWGA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:31:03 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
15:31:04 Nina Baucus, Governors Appointee  
15:41:55 Sen. Shannon O'Brien  
15:42:48 William Kleinsasser, Governors Appointee  
15:45:12 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie  
15:46:25 William Kleinsasser, Governors Appointee

15:47:27 Vice Chair Susan Webber  
15:47:55 William Kleinsasser, Governors Appointee  
15:48:17 Sen. Wendy McKamey  
15:51:30 Nina Baucus, Governors Appointee  
15:54:58 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie  
15:56:19 Nina Baucus, Governors Appointee  
15:56:43 Sen. Dan Bartel  
15:57:40 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie  
15:57:51 Lillian Andersen, Governors Appointee

**Closing Statement:**

15:58:33 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SR 64.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 64 - Confirm governor's appointees for board of livestock**

16:01:12 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SR 64 DO PASS.**  
12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 767 - Provide board review of brands**

16:04:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **HB 767 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
16:04:36 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Shannon O'Brien

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 662 - Prohibit grazing on public land without permission**

16:05:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **HB 662 TO TABLE.**  
12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**HEARING ON HB 738 - Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program**

**Opening Statement:**

16:07:08 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 738, Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:09:23 Nathan Kene, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)

16:14:25 Eric Somerfeld, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

16:15:13 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:16:11 Zack Coccoli, Montana Department of Agriculture

**Questions from Committee:**

16:16:53 Sen. Daniel Salomon

16:17:07 Zach Coccoli, Montana Department of Agriculture

16:17:58 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

16:18:29 Zach Coccoli, Montana Department of Agriculture

16:18:43 Sen. Dan Bartel

16:20:19 Sen. Wendy McKamey

16:21:23 Nathan Kene, MGGA

16:23:06 Sen. Wendy McKamey

16:23:52 Zach Coccoli, Montana Department of Agriculture

16:24:27 Nathan Kene, MGGA

16:26:57 Sen. Wendy McKamey

16:27:24 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:28:50 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 738.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 738 - Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program**

16:29:34 **Motion:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn moved that **HB 738 BE CONCURRED IN.**

16:29:50 **Motion:** Sen. Wendy McKamey moved that **HB 738 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:30:06 Trevor Graff

12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:31:20 **Motion:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn moved that **HB 738 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

12:47:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:31:20 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:33:31

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Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230328AGSaad\)](#)