

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: Chair Steve Hinebauch-R, on March 28, 2023 at 3:13 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Fox, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)

Staff Present: Casey Pallister, Research Analyst
Lynnette Sena, 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:

SB 512 03/20/2023
SB 520 03/23/2023
SB 525 03/23/2023
SB 533 03/24/2023

Executive Action:

SB 512 TO TABLE
SB 520 TO TABLE
SB 525 TO TABLE
SB 533 DO PASS

15:15:38 Sen. McClafferty has arrived

HEARING ON SB 512 - Generally revise non-resident hunting license laws

Opening Statement:

15:15:33 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 512, Generally revise non-resident hunting license laws.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:20:58 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

[EXHIBIT\(230328FISa1\)](#)

15:23:37 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:25:04 Nick Gevock, Montana Sportsmen Alliance

15:25:56 Noah Marion, Wild Montana

15:26:59 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230328FISa2\)](#)

15:28:50 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:30:11 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:30:56 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:31:23 Ben Lamb, MWF

15:31:43 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:31:54 Mac Minard, MOGA

15:32:21 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:32:33 Lena Havron, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:32:40 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:33:11 Lena Havron, FWP

Closing Statement:

15:33:36 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, closed the hearing on SB 512.

15:33:57 Sen. Hertz has left

HEARING ON SB 520 - Generally revise hunting license laws

Opening Statement:

15:37:07 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 520, Generally revise hunting license laws.

[EXHIBIT\(230328FISa3\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:43:25 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

15:45:30 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:47:45 Nick Gevock, Montana Sportsmen Alliance

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:48:32 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:48:55 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:50:02 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:50:22 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:51:43 Dustin Temple, FWP
15:52:16 Chair Steve Hinebauch
15:55:50 Dustin Temple, FWP

Closing Statement:

15:57:23 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, closed the hearing on SB 520.

HEARING ON SB 525 - Generally revise laws related to hunting licenses and permits

Opening Statement:

16:01:36 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 525, Generally revise laws related to hunting licenses and permits.

[EXHIBIT\(230328FISa4\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

16:12:26 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.
16:12:28 Nick Gevock, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)
16:14:09 Jake Schwaller, Eastern Montana Conservation Leader, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)
[EXHIBIT\(230328FISa5\)](#)
16:17:38 Jeremy Harwood, Montana Bowhunters Association (MBA)
16:19:27 Rod Bullis, Helena Hunters and Anglers Association
16:21:01 Kevin Farron, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)
16:25:56 Jock Conyngham, self
16:27:51 Marty Petritz, Butte Skyline Sportsman Association
16:29:28 Ian Wargo, self
16:31:23 Stephen LePage, self
16:31:48 Ken Schultz, President, Montana Bowhunters Association
16:33:07 Doug Krings, self

16:34:19 Jason Jolliff, self
16:35:18 Walker Conyngham, President, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers

Opponent Testimony:

16:36:39 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)
[EXHIBIT\(230328FISa6\)](#)
16:39:29 Robert Sanders, Manager of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited (DU)
16:41:06 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)
16:47:55 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
16:49:32 Matt Lumley, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)
16:50:53 Jeff Darrah, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (MTSFW)
16:52:30 Kris Killorn, Outdoor Heritage Coalition

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:54:02 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:54:13 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:56:05 Lena Havron, Chief Financial Officer, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
16:56:18 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:56:58 Chair Steve Hinebauch
16:57:11 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:57:51 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:58:13 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:58:47 Jake Schwaller, MT BHA
16:59:16 Sen. Daniel Emrich

16:59:24 Casey Pallister
16:59:35 Sen. Daniel Emrich
17:02:18 Mac Minard, MOGA
17:03:22 Vice Chair Bob Brown
17:06:15 Sen. Pat Flowers
17:06:45 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
17:07:09 Nick Gevock, MSA
17:08:57 Chair Steve Hinebauch
17:09:33 Sen. Pat Flowers
17:10:58 Chair Steve Hinebauch
17:11:25 Kevin Farron, MT BHA
17:13:44 Chair Steve Hinebauch
17:14:16 Mac Minard, MOGA
17:15:32 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
17:16:15 Dustin Temple, FWP
17:17:01 Sen. Willis Curdy
17:17:37 Jake Schwaller, MT BHA

Closing Statement:

17:18:30 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, closed the hearing on SB 525.

HEARING ON SB 533 - Revise laws related to out of state hunting & fishing

Opening Statement:

17:24:01 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 533, Revise laws related to out of state hunting & fishing.

Proponent Testimony:

17:27:41 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

Opponent Testimony:

17:29:26 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
17:30:30 Kevin Farron, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)
17:33:45 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:35:51 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

17:35:59 Sen. John Fuller
17:39:34 Kevin Farron, MT BHA
17:40:07 Vice Chair Bob Brown
17:41:06 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
17:41:10 Vice Chair Bob Brown
17:44:42 Sen. Mark Noland
17:45:49 Sen. Greg Hertz
17:46:33 Dustin Temple, FWP
17:46:47 Chair Steve Hinebauch
17:47:08 Dustin Temple, FWP
17:48:11 Vice Chair Bob Brown
17:48:23 Dustin Temple, FWP
17:48:51 Chair Steve Hinebauch
17:48:57 Casey Pallister
17:49:21 Sen. Daniel Emrich
17:49:39 Dustin Temple, FWP

Closing Statement:

17:50:08 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 533.

17:52:18 **Recessed**

18:03:32 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 512 - Generally revise non-resident hunting license laws

18:03:41 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 512 TO TABLE.**

18:03:41 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 520 - Generally revise hunting license laws

18:04:14 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 520 TO TABLE.**

18:04:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 525 - Generally revise laws related to hunting licenses and permits

18:05:03 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 525 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

18:05:26 Sen. Pat Flowers

18:05:32 **Motion:** Sen. Pat Flowers moved that **SB 525 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:05:46 Sen. Pat Flowers

18:06:12 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

18:06:35 Vice Chair Bob Brown

18:05:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

18:07:45 **Motion:** Sen. Steve Hinebauch moved that **SB 525 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

18:07:55 Sen. Daniel Emrich

- 18:07:45 **Vote:** Motion failed 8 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Fox, Sen. McClafferty, voting yes.
- 18:09:44 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 525 TO TABLE.**
- 18:09:44 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 533 - Revise laws related to out of state hunting & fishing

- 18:10:14 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 533 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

- 18:10:24 Sen. John Fuller
- 18:10:59 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 18:11:14 Vice Chair Bob Brown
- 18:12:10 Sen. Mark Noland
- 18:12:34 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
- 18:12:44 Chair Steve Hinebauch
- 18:13:05 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
- 18:13:16 Chair Steve Hinebauch
- 18:13:25 Sen. Mark Noland
- 18:13:45 Sen. Greg Hertz
- 18:14:04 Chair Steve Hinebauch
- 18:10:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Fox, voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:15:51

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

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