

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Theresa Manzella-R, on March 28, 2023 at 3:12 PM, in 405

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Theresa Manzella, Chair (R)  
Sen. Andrea Olsen, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Becky Beard (R)  
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)  
Sen. Barry Usher (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)  
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)  
Sen. Jen Gross (D)  
Sen. Kathy Kelker (D)

**Staff Present:** Trudy Burke, Secretary  
Joe Carroll, 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 365 03/24/2023  
HB 439 03/21/2023  
HB 486 03/24/2023  
HB 764 03/21/2023  
HB 809 03/21/2023  
SB 521 03/25/2023

Executive Action:

HB 184 TO TABLE  
HB 809 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 486 MOTION WITHDRAWN

**HEARING ON HB 439 - Create a GVW fee for electric vehicles and hybrids being permanently registered**

**Opening Statement:**

15:14:21 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 439, Create a GVW fee for electric vehicles and hybrids being permanently registered.

**Discussion:**

15:14:34 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:16:19 Dave Galt, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

15:16:42 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:17:14 Luke Hoffer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 233, and on behalf of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)

15:17:43 Laurie Bakri, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:18:33 Kendra Smith, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

15:18:52 John MacDonald, Alliance for Automotive Innovation (AAI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:19:22 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

15:21:33 John MacDonald, AAI

**Closing Statement:**

15:22:41 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 439.

**HEARING ON HB 764 - Revise certain license plate fees**

**Opening Statement:**

15:23:44 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 764, Revise certain license plate fees.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:25:11 Laurie Bakri, Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice (DOJ)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:27:27 Brad Marten, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:28:31 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:29:23 Rep. Denley Loge-R

15:29:44 Laurie Bakri, DOJ

15:30:46 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

15:31:47 Laurie Bakri, DOJ

15:32:41 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

15:33:38 Sen. Becky Beard left the meeting.

15:34:03 Chair Theresa Manzella

15:34:42 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

15:34:51 Rep. Denley Loge-R

15:36:00 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

15:36:21 Laurie Bakri, DOJ

**Closing Statement:**

15:36:57 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 764.

**HEARING ON HB 809 - Revise traffic violation law**

**Opening Statement:**

15:38:05 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 809, Revise traffic violation law.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:39:49 Dustin Rouse, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

15:43:00 Dave Galt, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:44:03 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

15:44:55 Dustin Rouse, MDT

15:46:39 Jeremy Wilde, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

**Closing Statement:**

15:48:53 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 809.

**Discussion:**

15:50:22 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen left the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 365 - Revise suspended driver's license laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:50:48 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, opened the hearing on HB 365, Revise suspended driver's license laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:53:09 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen  
15:54:42 Rep. Scot Kerns-R  
15:55:25 Sen. Shelley Vance  
15:55:52 Rep. Scot Kerns-R  
15:56:23 Laurie Bakri, DOJ

**Closing Statement:**

15:57:28 Rep. Scot Kerns (R), HD 23, closed the hearing on HB 365.

**HEARING ON SB 521 - Generally revise right of way laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:58:37 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, opened the hearing on SB 521, Generally revise right of way laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:00:03 Jessie Luther, Mitsubishi Power  
[EXHIBIT\(230328HISa1\)](#)  
16:05:29 Mark Baker, American Telephone and Telegraph (AT and T)  
16:06:18 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)  
16:06:39 Sen. Becky Beard joined the meeting.  
16:06:47 Bridger Mahlum, Charter Communications  
16:07:32 Sen. Jeremy Trebas left the meeting.  
16:07:36 Aimee Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless  
16:08:15 Geoff Feiss, Broadband Montana  
16:11:59 Margaret Morgan, T Mobile  
16:12:32 Sen. Forrest Mandeville joined the meeting.

16:12:59 Benjamin Aron, Cellular Telephone Industries Association (CTIA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:16:07 Jason Gilliam, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:16:52 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

16:17:21 Jason Gilliam, MDT

16:17:34 Sen. Forrest Mandeville left the meeting.

16:17:58 Sen. Jen Gross joined the meeting.

16:18:08 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

16:22:34 Jessie Luther, Mitsubishi Power

16:23:59 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:26:49 Jason Gilliam, MDT

16:26:59 Chair Theresa Manzella

16:27:14 Jason Gilliam, MDT

16:27:46 Sen. Jen Gross

16:28:04 Sen. Shelley Vance-R

16:28:48 Sen. Jen Gross

16:29:04 Jessie Luther, Mitsubishi

16:29:18 Chair Theresa Manzella

16:29:31 Geoff Feiss, Broadband Montana

16:30:01 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

16:30:19 Geoff Feiss, Broadband Montana

16:30:52 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen

16:31:56 Jason Gilliam, MDT  
16:32:39 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen  
16:32:45 Chair Theresa Manzella  
16:33:09 Jason Gilliam, MDT

**Closing Statement:**

16:33:31 Sen. Shelley Vance (R), SD 34, closed the hearing on SB 521.

16:34:59 **Recessed**

16:45:16 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 486 - Generally revise county road access laws**

**Opening Statement:**

16:45:30 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, opened the hearing on HB 486, Generally revise county road access laws.

**Discussion:**

16:45:31 Vice Chair Chris Friedel joined the meeting.

16:45:54 Vice Chair Andrea Olsen left the meeting.

16:45:57 Sen. Carl Glimm left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:47:58 Drewry Hanes, Public Land Water Access Association (PLWA)

16:50:52 Erik Somerfeld, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

16:57:26 Matt Leow, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Montana Chapter (BHA)

16:59:27 Jocelyn Leroux, Montana Conservation Voters

17:00:07 Charlie Bocher, Montana Wildlife Federation

**Opponent Testimony:**

17:00:59 Charles Denough, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

17:06:55 Alan Doane, self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

17:10:30 Sen. Jen Gross  
17:14:39 Rep. Paul Green-R  
17:15:30 Sen. Jen Gross  
17:15:40 Charles Denough, UPOM  
17:17:06 Sen. Jen Gross  
17:18:47 Jorie Hanes, PLWA  
17:20:02 Sen. Jen Gross  
17:20:04 Charles Denough, UPOM  
17:20:51 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
17:22:25 Rep. Paul Green-R  
17:22:46 Chair Theresa Manzella  
17:24:09 Rep. Paul Green-R  
17:24:57 Chair Theresa Manzella  
17:25:55 Charles Denough, UPOM  
17:26:14 Sen. Jen Gross  
17:28:36 Matt Leow, BHA  
17:29:44 Chair Theresa Manzella  
17:31:02 Rep. Paul Green-R

**Closing Statement:**

17:31:22 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, closed the hearing on HB 486.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 184 - Revising mandatory motor vehicle insurance laws relating certain vehicles**

17:35:28 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **HB 184 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:35:41 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **HB 184 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:36:02 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

17:36:17 Joe Carroll

17:38:33 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

17:38:59 Joe Carroll

17:39:26 Sen. Barry Usher

17:39:46 **Motion:** Sen. Barry Usher moved that **HB 184 TO TABLE.**

17:39:46 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Kelker, Sen. Olsen, voting no.  
Sen. Kelker, Sen. Olsen, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 809 - Revise traffic violation law**

17:42:54 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **HB 809 BE CONCURRED IN.**

17:42:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

17:42:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 486 - Generally revise county road access laws**

17:47:56 **Motion:** Sen. Shelley Vance moved that **HB 486 TO TABLE.**

17:47:56 **Vote:** Motion failed 8 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Beard, Sen. Manzella, Sen. Usher, Sen. Vance, voting yes.

17:48:38 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel moved that **HB 486 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

12:34:52 Chair Theresa Manzella

12:34:55 Sen. Barry Usher

12:35:04 Sen. Becky Beard

12:35:08 Sen. Shelley Vance  
12:35:15 Sen. Chris Friedel  
12:35:31 Sen. Barry Usher  
12:35:36 Chair Theresa Manzella  
12:35:39 Sen. Barry Usher  
12:35:46 Sen. Chris Friedel  
17:51:49 **Motion:** Sen. Chris Friedel withdrew the motion that HB 486 BE  
CONCURRED IN.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:55:35

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Trudy Burke, Secretary

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