

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on March 29, 2023 at 8:03 AM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jason Small, Chair (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mark Noland, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Staff Present: Daisy Rhodes, Secretary
Erin Sullivan, 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 808 03/27/2023
SB 543 03/27/2023
SB 544 03/27/2023
SB 546 03/27/2023
SB 556 03/28/2023
SB 557 03/28/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 808 - Revise surety insurance laws related to bail bonds

Opening Statement:

08:07:02 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 808, Revise surety insurance laws related to bail bonds.

Proponent Testimony:

08:09:36 John Looney, Montana Bail Agents Association (MBAA)

[EXHIBIT\(230329BUSa1\)](#)

08:12:51 Kelly Reisbeck, Bail Montana and Montana Bail Agents Association

08:13:25 Scott Restvedt, self

08:13:51 John Jay Willoughby, self

08:14:31 Rod Young, self

08:14:54 Lorelei Reed, self

08:15:14 Jennifer Kate Lokken-Ore, self

Opponent Testimony:

08:15:49 Frank Cote, State Auditor's Office (SAO)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:18:41 Chair Jason Small

08:18:54 Frank Cote, SAO

08:19:49 Chair Jason Small

08:24:28 John Looney, MBAA

08:27:14 Sen. Walt Sales

08:27:35 John Looney, MBAA
08:28:28 Sen. Walt Sales
08:29:49 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R
08:30:16 Sen. Walt Sales
08:30:34 Chair Jason Small
08:31:00 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R
08:31:06 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:31:35 Frank Cote, SAO
08:32:11 Sen. Walt Sales
08:32:36 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R

Closing Statement:

08:33:01 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 808.

HEARING ON SB 543 - Revise alcohol laws relating to off-premises beer and wine licenses and delivery

Opening Statement:

08:37:18 Sen. Ellie Boldman (D), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 543, Revise alcohol laws relating to off-premises beer and wine licenses and delivery.

Proponent Testimony:

08:42:38 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

08:43:20 Dacia English, Alcohol and Beverage Control Division- Department of Revenue (ABCD-DOR)

Questions from Committee:

08:43:44 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:44:27 Dacia English, ABCD-DOR
08:45:19 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:45:34 Dacia English, ABCD-DOR
08:45:46 Chair Jason Small
08:45:50 Dacia English, ABCD-DOR
08:46:02 Sen. Walt Sales
08:46:53 Dacia English, ABCD-DOR
08:47:18 Sen. Walt Sales
08:47:35 Sen. Ellie Boldman-D
08:48:35 Sen. Mike Fox
08:48:59 Sen. Ellie Boldman-D

Closing Statement:

08:49:22 Sen. Ellie Boldman (D), SD 45, closed the hearing on SB 543.

HEARING ON SB 544 - Revise internet laws related to material harmful to minors

Opening Statement:

08:50:07 Vice Chair Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 544,
Revise internet laws related to material harmful to minors.

Proponent Testimony:

08:54:09 Carl Szabo, Net Choice

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:55:40 Sen. Walt Sales

08:55:56 Sen. Willis Curdy-D

Closing Statement:

08:58:56 Vice Chair Willis Curdy (D), SD 49, closed the hearing on SB 544.

HEARING ON SB 557 - Revise MEPA relating to litigation

Opening Statement:

09:00:37 Vice Chair Mark Noland (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 557, Revise MEPA relating to litigation.

Proponent Testimony:

09:05:53 Steve Wade, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC) and Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

09:07:40 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

09:08:25 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

Opponent Testimony:

09:10:08 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

09:16:16 Sonja Nowakowski, Air, Energy and Mining Division, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

09:16:43 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:17:52 Alan Olson, MPA

09:18:23 Steve Wade, MCC and MCA

09:19:50 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:21:59 Anne Hedges, MEIC

09:22:24 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

09:24:11 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:25:46 Alan Olson, MPA
09:26:21 Steve Wade, MCC and MCA
09:27:33 Chair Jason Small
09:30:30 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ
09:31:02 Sen. Walt Sales
09:34:00 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ
09:34:28 Sen. Walt Sales
09:34:35 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ
09:34:41 Sen. Walt Sales
09:39:41 Steve Wade, MCC and MCA
09:41:00 Sen. Walt Sales
09:41:13 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:41:52 Steve Wade, MCC and MCA
09:42:50 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:45:09 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ
09:45:51 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:46:14 Anne Hedges, MEIC

Closing Statement:

09:48:21 Vice Chair Mark Noland (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 557.

HEARING ON SB 556 - Generally revise workers compensation laws

Opening Statement:

09:53:54 Sen. Carl Glimm (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 556, Generally revise workers compensation laws.

Proponent Testimony:

- 10:03:48 Lon Albers, self
- 10:04:48 Rep. Nelly Nicol, House District 53
- [EXHIBIT\(230329BUSa2\)](#)
- [EXHIBIT\(230329BUSa3\)](#)
- 10:10:12 Abigail Carlson, self

Opponent Testimony:

- 10:13:01 Nick Mazanec, Montana State Fund
- [EXHIBIT\(230329BUSa4\)](#)
- 10:15:30 Cory Shaw, Montana Building Industries Association (MBIA)
- 10:16:30 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)and Montana Manufacturing Association (MMA)
- 10:17:34 Scott Kulbeck, Montana Farm Bureau Federation and on behalf of Montana Stockgrowers Association
- 10:19:43 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association and on behalf of the Montana Trucking Association
- 10:22:02 Adam Haight, Laborers Local Union 1686
- 10:22:34 Frank Cote, State Auditors Office (SAO)
- 10:23:57 Aidan Myhre, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
- 10:24:52 Rhonda Wiggers, National Federation of Independent Business Owners and Montana Water Well Drillers Association
- 10:27:07 John Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Montana (IIAM)and Montana Automobile Dealers
- 10:27:43 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 44
- 10:28:23 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- 10:30:03 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association
- 10:30:57 Quint Nyman, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

10:32:26 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

Questions from Committee:

10:32:41 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
10:33:29 John Iverson, IIAM
10:34:15 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
10:35:39 Sen. Carl Glimm-R
10:37:36 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:41:44 Nick Mazenic, Montana State Fund
10:43:30 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:43:49 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund
10:44:36 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:50:10 Rep. Nelly Nicol, House District 53
10:51:36 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:55:24 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.
11:01:04 Frank Cote, SAO
11:01:55 Vice Chair Mark Noland
11:02:55 Nelly Nicol, House District 53
11:05:15 Chair Jason Small
11:05:34 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund

Closing Statement:

11:08:29 Sen. Carl Glimm (R), SD 6, closed the hearing on SB 556.

12:05:12 Chair Small has left

Opening Statement:

11:14:21 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 546, Generally revise marijuana law.

Proponent Testimony:

11:18:22 Scott Reichner, Save Montana

11:20:47 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections

[EXHIBIT\(230329BUSa5\)](#)

11:23:25 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation

11:25:12 Ben Forsyth, Cannabis Harms Sufferers

11:28:02 Cathy Carlson, self

11:30:38 Steve Zabawa, Safe Montana

11:32:58 Susan Sullivan, self

11:35:43 John Daviau, Smart Approaches to Marijuana

11:38:03 Karen Sylvester, self

11:40:28 Kevin Sabet, Smart Approaches to Marijuana

11:42:49 Casey Volk, self

Opponent Testimony:

11:46:10 Pepper Peterson, Montana Cannabis Guild

11:48:25 Dylan Dean, self

11:49:43 Kate Cholwa, Montana Cannabis Association

11:52:00 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics

11:55:16 Darci Wiebe, Montana Advance Caregivers

11:57:35 Elizabeth Pincolini, Alternative Wellness Montana

11:59:17 Mariah Bond, Euphoria Wellness

12:00:11 Chris Gatten, self

12:01:31 Katrina Farnum, Garden Mother
12:03:44 Cathrine Cornell, self
12:05:21 Evan Kajander, self
12:07:21 Austin Hinkle, self
12:08:32 David Liberman, self
12:09:48 Nicole Hobday, self
12:11:47 Jordan Stevenson, self
12:13:10 Joanna Barney, self
12:15:29 Brian Porter, Zen Medicine

Proponent Testimony:

12:18:51 Linda Wolfe, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

12:21:01 Vice Chair Mark Noland
12:21:29 Steve Zabawa, Safe Montana
12:25:02 Sen. Walt Sales
12:26:23 Pepper Peterson, Montana Cannabis Guild
12:28:32 Sen. Walt Sales
12:30:41 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostics
12:32:15 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
12:32:52 Sen. Keith Regier-R
12:33:21 Vice Chair Mark Noland
12:35:38 Scott Richner, Safe Montana
12:36:06 Vice Chair Mark Noland

12:38:51 Coleen Smith, Youth Connections

Closing Statement:

12:39:58 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 546.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:42:03

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230329BUSaad\)](#)