

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on March 30, 2023 at 8:00 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)

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

Staff Present: Lynnette Sena, 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 72 03/29/2023
HB 550 03/29/2023
HB 658 03/29/2023

Executive Action:

HB 72
HB 550
HB 101
HB 154
HB 314
HB 349 TO TABLE
HB 371
HB 379
HB 427
HB 578
HB 615

HB 758
SB 516 DO PASS
SB 527 TO TABLE
SB 531 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 535 DO PASS
SB 538 DO PASS
SB 543 DO PASS AS AMENDED
SB 544 DO PASS
SB 546 TO TABLE
SB 556 TO TABLE
SB 557 DO PASS

HEARING ON HB 72 - Revise alcohol licenses related to restaurant beer and wine licenses

Opening Statement:

08:01:38 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 72, Revise alcohol licenses related to restaurant beer and wine licenses.

Proponent Testimony:

08:04:37 Dasha English, Department of Revenue (DOR)

08:05:31 Shauna Helfert, Gaming Industry Association (GIA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:06:12 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:06:33 Dasha English, DOR

08:06:54 Sen. Walt Sales

08:08:55 Dasha English, DOR

Closing Statement:

08:09:36 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, closed the hearing on HB 72.

HEARING ON HB 658 - Generally revise card transaction fees

Opening Statement:

08:10:00 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 658, Generally revise card transaction fees.

Proponent Testimony:

08:11:45 Mike Moore, Montana Collectors Association (MCA)
08:17:36 Jennifer Wipple, Treasurer, Montana Collectors Association (MCA)
08:20:52 Bryan Thompson, Montana Collectors Association (MCA)
08:21:53 Brian Brown, CB1 Collections Inc. (CB1)

Opponent Testimony:

08:23:49 Eiman Siddiqui, American Express

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:27:35 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
08:29:33 Rep. Ron Marshall-R
08:30:47 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
08:31:35 Sen. Terry Vermeire joined the meeting.
08:31:43 Eiman Siddiqui, American Express
08:34:21 Vice Chair Mark Noland
08:36:03 Rep. Ron Marshall-R
08:37:13 Sen. Walt Sales
08:38:54 Rep. Ron Marshall-R
08:39:18 Sen. Walt Sales
08:40:03 Brian Thompson, MCA
08:40:31 Sen. Mike Fox
08:41:21 Rep. Ron Marshall-R

Closing Statement:

08:42:34 Rep. Ron Marshall (R), HD 87, closed the hearing on HB 658.

HEARING ON HB 550 - Revise gambling laws related to the sale of video gambling machines

Opening Statement:

08:43:13 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 550, Revise gambling laws related to the sale of video gambling machines.

Proponent Testimony:

08:44:13 Shana Helfert, Montana Gaming Association (MGI)

08:46:30 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators Association (MCMOA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:48:21 Sen. Walt Sales

08:50:42 Ronda Wiggers, MCMOA

Closing Statement:

08:51:21 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 550.

09:03:51 **Recessed**

10:05:43 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 72 - Revise alcohol licenses related to restaurant beer and wine licenses

10:05:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 72 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:05:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:05:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Terry Vermeire

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 550 - Revise gambling laws related to the sale of video gambling machines

10:07:05 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 550 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:07:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:07:05 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 101 - Revise licensing reciprocity for behavioral health care licensees

10:07:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 101 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:07:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:07:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Willis Curdy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 154 - Remove licensure requirement for medication aides

10:09:15 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 154 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:09:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:09:15 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Willis Curdy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 314 - Revise compensation for members of boards, commissions, and councils

10:10:05 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 314 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:10:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 314 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:10:17 Executive Action Plan

10:10:45 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:10:52 Erin Sullivan

10:10:52 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:13:02 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 314 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

10:13:02 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:13:02 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Terry Vermeire

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 349 - Establish obscenity filter requirements for electronic devices

10:14:03 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 349 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:14:19 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:14:19 **Vote:** Motion failed 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Fox, Sen. Noland, voting yes.

10:16:07 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 349 TO TABLE.**

10:16:07 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 371 - Allow state-chartered banks to own employee housing

10:16:40 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 371 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:16:40 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:16:40 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 379 - Revise laws related to pharmacy benefit managers

10:17:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 379 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:17:34 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:17:34 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Willis Curdy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 427 - Revise military affairs laws regarding worker's compensation

10:18:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 427 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:18:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:18:32 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Fox

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 578 - Generally revise laws alcohol laws related to special permits

10:19:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 578 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:19:42 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:19:42 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Noland, Sen. Sales, voting no.

10:19:26 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Terry Vermeire

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 615 - Generally revise liability insurance laws relating to real estate professionals

10:22:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 615 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:22:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:22:06 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 758 - Require insurance coverage of continuous glucose monitoring supplies

10:22:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 758 BE CONCURRED IN.**

10:23:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 758 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:23:38 Erin Sullivan

10:23:38 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:25:39 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 758 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

10:25:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:25:39 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 516 - Provide for the Preserving Fertility Act

10:26:52 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 516 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:27:02 Chair Jason Small

10:27:19 Sen. Walt Sales

10:27:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 527 - Create Montana Farm Wine and Winegrower License

10:28:03 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 527 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:28:17 Chair Jason Small

- 10:28:35 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
- 10:28:54 Vice Chair Mark Noland
- 10:28:54 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Fox, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Small, voting yes.
- 10:30:41 **Motion:** Chair Jason Small moved that **SB 527 TO TABLE.**
- 10:28:41 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 531 - Generally review broadband deployment laws

- 10:31:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 531 DO PASS.**
- 10:31:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 531 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 10:31:53 Erin Sullivan
- 10:31:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 10:32:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 531 BE AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 10:33:05 Vice Chair Mark Noland
- 10:33:10 Erin Sullivan
- 10:33:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- 10:34:51 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 531 BE AMENDED.**
- 10:34:51 **Vote:** Motion failed unanimously by voice vote.
- 10:36:01 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 531 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**
- Discussion:**
- 10:36:22 Sen. Mike Fox
- 10:36:58 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
- 10:36:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 535 - Revise lottery laws relating to the board of horseracing

- 10:38:04 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 535 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**

10:38:30 Chair Jason Small

10:38:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Small, voting no.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 538 - Generally revise marijuana laws

10:40:10 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 538 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:40:28 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

10:40:43 Sen. Walt Sales

10:40:43 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

10:41:42 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 543 DO PASS.**

10:41:50 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 543 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:42:12 Vice Chair Mark Noland

15:51:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:42:46 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 543 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:43:00 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:43:56 Chair Jason Small

10:44:20 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:44:54 Sen. Terry Vermeire

10:45:08 Chair Jason Small

10:45:20 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:46:01 Sen. Terry Vermeire

10:46:23 Chair Jason Small

10:46:31 Sen. Walt Sales

10:47:24 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:48:24 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:49:08 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:49:53 Chair Jason Small
10:49:53 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Noland, voting no.
Sen. Fitzpatrick, By Proxy

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

10:51:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Willis Curdy moved that **SB 544 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:51:31 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:51:51 Chair Jason Small
10:51:56 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:51:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 546 - Generally revise marijuana law

10:52:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 546 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:53:02 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:59:26 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
11:00:53 Chair Jason Small
11:00:53 **Vote:** Motion failed 6 - 4 by voice vote with Sen. Fitzpatrick, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Noland, Sen. Vermeire, voting yes.
Sen. Fitzpatrick, By Proxy
11:02:05 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 546 TO TABLE.**
11:02:05 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 556 - Generally revise workers compensation laws

11:02:30 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 556 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

11:02:41 Chair Jason Small

- 11:03:13 Vice Chair Mark Noland
- 11:07:40 Sen. Walt Sales
- 11:07:40 **Vote:** Motion failed 8 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Noland, Sen. Vermeire, voting yes.
- 11:09:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 556 TO TABLE.**
- 11:09:36 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 557 - Revise MEPA relating to litigation

- 11:10:03 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **SB 557 DO PASS.**
- Discussion:**
- 11:10:17 Vice Chair Mark Noland
- 11:13:11 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
- 11:15:19 Sen. Walt Sales
- 11:15:19 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 4 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Fox, Sen. Pope, Sen. Sales, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:21:00

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230330BUSaad\)](#)