

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: Chair Chris Friedel-R, on March 31, 2023 at 3:37 PM, in 405

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Chris Friedel, Chair (R)
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)

Staff Present: Toni Henneman, Research Analyst
Lorna Mason, 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:

HB 35 03/30/2023
HB 244 03/24/2023
HB 304 03/24/2023
HB 374 03/24/2023
SB 558 03/28/2023

Executive Action:

SB 558 DO PASS

HEARING ON SB 558 - Require United States cash to be accepted as currency

Opening Statement:

15:40:50 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, opened the hearing on SB 558, Require United States cash to be accepted as currency.

Proponent Testimony:

15:48:38 Pepper Petersen, Montana Cannabis Guild

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:50:58 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
15:51:22 Sen. Shane Morigeau-D
15:53:24 Chair Chris Friedel
15:53:48 Sen. Shane Morigeau-D
15:54:45 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
15:55:18 Sen. Shane Morigeau-D
15:55:39 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

Closing Statement:

15:55:48 Sen. Shane Morigeau (D), SD 95, closed the hearing on SB 558.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 558 - Require United States cash to be accepted as currency

15:57:06 **Motion:** Sen. Daniel Zolnikov moved that **SB 558 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:57:43 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
15:58:19 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
15:57:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

HEARING ON HB 35 - Remove appointed members & allow ex officio members on county water/sewer board

Opening Statement:

16:01:04 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 35, Remove appointed members & allow ex officio members on county water/sewer board.

Proponent Testimony:

16:06:48 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings

16:09:21 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:10:52 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

16:11:36 Rep. Larry Brewster-R

16:12:22 Chair Chris Friedel

16:12:28 Steve Turkiewicz, self

16:13:19 Chair Chris Friedel

16:13:39 Rep. Larry Brewster-R

Closing Statement:

16:14:46 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, closed the hearing on HB 35.

HEARING ON HB 304 - Require Marijuana producer and processor facility air and odor filtration

Opening Statement:

16:15:52 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 304, Require Marijuana producer and processor facility air and odor filtration.

Discussion:

16:16:15 Sen. Ellie Boldman joined the meeting.

16:20:24 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

16:21:33 Michelle Jenicek, self

[EXHIBIT\(230331LOSa1\)](#)

16:24:14 Zachary Grosfield, self

16:31:32 Marty Brown, self

16:33:07 Tim Inman, self

16:35:09 John McCausland, self

16:36:22 Jody Conophy, self

Opponent Testimony:

16:37:03 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association (MTCIA)

[EXHIBIT\(230331LOSa2\)](#)

16:40:36 Pepper Peterson, Montana Cannabis Production Association

16:44:26 Jay Bostrum, self

16:48:30 Erica Siate, Hemp Plus

16:49:16 Adam Arnold, Collective Elevation

16:53:19 Joshua Gosney, self

16:55:14 Joanna Barney, Sacred Sun Farms

16:56:41 Mariah Bond, Soultonix LLC

16:57:29 Sahil Mehta, self

16:58:20 Glenn Broughton, self

17:00:11 Antonette Lininger, Sacred Sun Farms

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:02:37 Kristan Barbour, Department of Revenue (DOR)

17:02:46 Eric Copeland, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee:

17:03:46 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

17:04:20 Eric Copeland, DOLI

17:06:27 Kristan Barbour, DOR

17:09:42 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:09:57 Kristan Barbour, DOR

17:10:34 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

17:10:49 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

[EXHIBIT\(230331LOSa3\)](#)

17:16:01 Sen. Christopher Pope

17:16:39 Eric Copeland, DOLI

17:20:18 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:21:03 Kristan Barbour, DOR

17:23:41 Chair Chris Friedel left the meeting.

17:25:46 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:26:14 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

17:29:10 Sen. Ellie Boldman

17:31:52 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

17:36:39 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

17:37:10 Eric Copeland, DOLI

17:38:34 Sen. Terry Vermeire

17:40:34 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

17:40:46 Pepper Peterson, self

Closing Statement:

17:41:25 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 304.

HEARING ON HB 374 - Create offense for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle

Opening Statement:

17:50:09 Rep. Donavon Hawk (D), HD 76, opened the hearing on HB 374, Create offense for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.

Proponent Testimony:

17:53:13 Lance Four Star, Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC)

17:55:43 Patrick Yakawich, Blackfeet Tribe

17:56:20 Jim Dusenberry, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)

17:57:56 Bob Gilbert, Montana Tow Truck Association (MTTA)

17:58:53 Dan Smith, Montana Police Protection Association (MPPA)

17:59:49 Nanette Gilbert, Montana Sheriff and Peace Officer Association (MPOA)

Opponent Testimony:

18:01:20 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

18:03:13 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

18:03:16 Rep. Donavon Hawk-D

18:03:22 Dan Smith, MPPA

18:04:54 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

18:05:37 Rep. Donavon Hawk-D

Closing Statement:

18:08:06 Rep. Donavon Hawk (D), HD 76, closed the hearing on HB 374.

HEARING ON HB 244 - Revise laws governing the housing Montana fund

Opening Statement:

18:09:13 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, opened the hearing on HB 244, Revise laws governing the housing Montana fund.

Discussion:

18:09:18 Chair Chris Friedel joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

18:11:05 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

18:12:10 Cheryl Cohen, Montana Housing, Department of Commerce (COMMERCE)

[EXHIBIT\(230331LOSa4\)](#)

Questions from Committee:

18:13:02 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

18:13:14 Rep. Dave Fern-D

18:15:38 Cheryl Cohen, COMMERCE

18:18:16 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

18:18:34 Cheryl Cohen, COMMERCE

Closing Statement:

18:19:02 Rep. Dave Fern (D), HD 5, closed the hearing on HB 244.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:58:59

Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230331LOSaad\)](#)