

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Small-R, on April 05, 2023 at 8:02 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:** 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 137 03/31/2023  
HB 152 03/31/2023  
SR 60 03/31/2023  
SR 61 03/31/2023  
SR 66 03/31/2023  
SR 67 03/31/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON SR 60 - Confirm governor's appointee for the unemployment insurance appeals board**

**Opening Statement:**

08:04:03 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SR 60, Confirm governor's appointee for the unemployment insurance appeals board.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:05:03 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

08:06:36 Derek Ostriker, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:08:49 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:10:28 Derek Ostriker, self

**Closing Statement:**

08:11:20 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SR 60.

**HEARING ON SR 61 - Confirm governor's appointees for the human rights commission**

**Opening Statement:**

08:11:40 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SR 61, Confirm governor's appointees for the human rights commission.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:12:19 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

08:14:28 Richard Bartos, self

08:20:11 Brian Molina, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:21:45 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:22:25 Richard Bartos, self

08:24:44 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:25:18 Brian Molina, self

**Closing Statement:**

08:26:23 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SR 61.

**HEARING ON SR 66 - Confirm governor's appointee for the board of real estate appraisers**

**Opening Statement:**

08:27:05 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SR 66, Confirm governor's appointee for the board of real estate appraisers.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:27:48 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

08:29:36 Peter Christensen, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:32:01 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:33:11 Peter Christensen, self

08:35:52 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

**Closing Statement:**

08:36:04 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SR 66.

**HEARING ON SR 67 - Confirm governor's appointee for state compensation insurance fund board**

**Opening Statement:**

08:36:23 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SR 67, Confirm governor's appointee for state compensation insurance fund board.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:37:17 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office

08:39:56 Eathan Hevely, Montana State Fund

08:40:41 Wiley Galt, self

08:41:17 Dexter Thiel, self

08:42:16 Nancy Butler, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:43:04 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:43:51 Wiley Golt, self

08:44:23 Sen. Walt Sales

08:46:20 Wiley Golt, self  
08:46:43 Sen. Walt Sales  
08:46:51 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:47:57 Wiley Golt, self  
08:48:33 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:49:10 Nancy Butler, self  
08:49:59 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:52:07 Dexter Thiel, self  
08:52:36 Vice Chair Mark Noland

**Closing Statement:**

08:52:52 Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SR 67.

**HEARING ON HB 137 - Generally revise laws related to the board of behavioral health**

**Opening Statement:**

08:53:42 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 137,  
Generally revise laws related to the board of behavioral health.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:55:33 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)  
08:57:45 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office  
08:58:21 Megan Peal, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services  
(DPHHS)  
08:59:08 Amy Nerison, Marriage and Family Therapists of Montana

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:59:58 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
09:00:48 Eric Strauss, DLI  
09:02:05 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:02:28 Eric Strauss, DLI  
09:02:48 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:03:05 Quinlan O'Connor, DLI  
09:03:47 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:03:54 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
09:03:58 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:04:12 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
09:04:53 Eric Strauss, DLI  
09:05:38 Vice Chair Mark Noland

**Closing Statement:**

09:05:53 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, closed the hearing on HB 137.

**HEARING ON HB 152 - Revise laws related to professional and occupational licensure**

**Opening Statement:**

09:08:03 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 152, Revise laws related to professional and occupational licensure.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:11:35 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office  
09:15:12 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)  
[EXHIBIT\(230405BUSa1\)](#)  
09:19:52 Dave Cook, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

09:24:04 Quinlan O'Conner, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)  
09:24:49 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Optometric Association  
09:30:05 Allen Lloyd, Montana Association of CPA's  
09:32:36 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association  
09:34:06 Amanda Frikle, Montana (MT AFL-CIO)  
09:37:26 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Athletic Trainers Association (MATA)  
09:38:33 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association (MMA)  
09:41:17 Luke Hoffer, IBEW 233  
09:41:46 Deb Kimmet, Montana Business League of Massage Therapy and Bodywork  
09:45:26 Jay Rerden, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:46:12 Tanner Avery, Frontier Institute

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:47:45 Ingrid Lovit, Executive Director, Montana Association of Naturopathic Physicians (MANP)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:49:57 Sen. Bruce Gillespie  
09:50:26 Rep. Bill Mercer-R  
09:54:35 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
09:54:46 Eric Strauss, DLI  
09:55:01 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
09:55:37 Webb Brown, MDA  
09:55:53 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
09:56:16 Quinlan O'Conner, DLI  
09:58:19 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:58:46 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:59:23 Eric Strauss, DLI  
10:00:34 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:00:43 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
10:06:55 Eric Strauss, DLI  
10:07:19 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
10:07:42 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:09:11 Eric Strauss, DLI  
10:09:22 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:09:39 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

**Closing Statement:**

10:10:26 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 152.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:16:22

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Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230405BUSaad\)](#)

