

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Willis Curdy-D, on April 07, 2023 at 8:02 AM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
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 128 04/06/2023  
HB 449 04/03/2023  
HB 648 04/06/2023  
HB 867 04/06/2023  
HB 881 04/06/2023  
HB 903 04/06/2023  
HB 918 04/06/2023  
HB 969 04/06/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 867 - Generally revise agency liquor store laws**

**Opening Statement:**

08:04:04 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 867, Generally revise agency liquor store laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:06:48 Mark Lewis, Montana Spirits and Wine

08:09:11 Sarah Ouellette, Big Sky Liquor Store

08:10:58 K.C Hill, Ronan Liquor Store

08:12:03 Frank Kyes, Libby Liquor Store

08:12:42 Tracy Prescott, Helena Empty Glass Liquor

08:13:47 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

08:15:38 Malissa Shannon, Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230407BUSa1\)](#)

08:17:00 Pepper Peterson, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:17:59 Shauna Helfert, Montana Gaming Industry Association (GIA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:24:34 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue, Alcohol Beverage Control Division (DOR-ABCD)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:25:08 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:25:53 John Iverson, MTA

08:26:21 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:26:45 Steve Swanson, DOR-ABCD  
08:27:28 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:28:05 Shauna Helfert, GIA  
08:29:44 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:30:36 Shauna Helfert, GIA  
08:30:58 Mark Lewis  
08:32:22 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:32:36 Steve Swanson, DOR-ABCD  
08:33:19 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:33:31 Steve Swanson, DOR-ABCD  
08:33:55 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:35:17 Mark Lewis  
08:37:06 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:38:50 Steve Swanson, DOR-ABCD  
08:39:29 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:40:24 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R  
08:44:55 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:46:04 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R  
08:47:10 Sen. Walt Sales  
08:48:04 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R  
08:48:21 Sen. Walt Sales  
08:48:44 Mark Lewis  
08:50:05 Sen. Walt Sales

**Closing Statement:**

08:50:16 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 867.

**HEARING ON HB 881 - Generally revise economic development laws**

**Opening Statement:**

08:52:00 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 881, Generally revise economic development laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:56:36 Rebecca Meyers, Montana Economic Developers Association

08:57:34 Liane Taylor, Montana Department of Commerce

[EXHIBIT\(230407BUSa2\)](#)

09:05:17 Scott Osterman, Director, Montana Department of Commerce

09:07:06 Brent Downey, Great Falls Development Authority

09:08:21 Sarah Converse, Executive Director, Sweetgrass Development

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:11:03 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:11:36 Scott Osterman, Montana Department of Commerce

09:12:30 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:13:33 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

09:15:05 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:15:49 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

09:16:27 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:16:34 Liane Taylor, Montana Department of Commerce  
09:17:57 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:18:43 Liane Taylor, Montana Department of Commerce  
09:19:39 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:20:17 Liane Taylor, Montana Department of Commerce  
09:20:37 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:21:47 Liane Taylor, Montana Department of Commerce  
09:22:29 Sen. Walt Sales

**Closing Statement:**

09:23:07 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 881.

**HEARING ON HB 128 - Generally revise marijuana laws**

**Opening Statement:**

09:23:56 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 128, Generally revise marijuana laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:25:04 Kathy Wiegand-Palmer, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)  
09:26:26 Tom Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns  
09:27:42 Kristen Barbour, Department of Revenue, Cannabis Control Division (DOR-CCD)  
09:31:22 Kate Cholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association  
09:32:58 Pepper Peterson, Montana Cannabis Guild  
09:38:47 Chair Jason Small left the meeting.  
09:39:05 Jennifer Hensley, Fidelity Diagnostic Laboratory  
09:41:31 Antonette Lininger, Sacred Suns Farms

09:44:18 Joanna Barney, Sacred Sun Farms  
09:46:46 Nathan Hofferber, Shovels Brand, Cannabis Cultivation and Transport  
09:48:32 Kaari Fulton, self  
09:49:39 Chair Jason Small joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

09:49:44 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
09:50:23 Kristen Barbour, DOR-CCD  
09:51:05 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
09:53:22 Kristen Barbour, DOR-CCD

**Closing Statement:**

09:53:44 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 128.

**HEARING ON HB 918 - Eliminating DPHHS registration requirement of day-care homes for zoning purposes**

**Opening Statement:**

09:56:04 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 918, Eliminating DPHHS registration requirement of day-care homes for zoning purposes.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

09:58:40 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, closed the hearing on HB 918.

**HEARING ON HB 449 - Provide for certified pediatric complex care assistant services**

**Opening Statement:**

10:04:41 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 449, Provide for certified pediatric complex care assistant services.

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:07:42 Laura Gill, self

10:10:51 Emily Herndon, self

10:13:10 Lauren Wilson, Montana Chapter of Pediatric Care

[EXHIBIT\(230407BUSa3\)](#)

10:16:52 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association

10:17:22 Eric Anderson, Montana Nurses Association

10:18:07 Jackie Mohler, Montana Family Outreach

10:19:25 Melody Cunningham, on behalf of Ashley Walker

10:23:07 Amanda Hodges, self

10:26:43 Patricia Notario, Pediatrics Billings Clinic

10:30:38 Jennifer Hensely, Physicians Assistants

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:31:21 Denise Brunett, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

10:31:48 Quinlan O'Connor, Department of Labor and Industry (DOL)

**Questions from Committee:**

10:32:13 Vice Chair Mark Noland

10:32:40 Rep. Alice Buckley-D

10:33:04 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

10:33:20 Quinlan O'Connor, DOL

10:33:28 Chair Jason Small

10:33:30 Quinlan O'Connor, DOL

10:33:55 Chair Jason Small

10:34:13 Quinlan O'Connor, DOL

10:34:33 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

10:35:30 Denise Brunett, DPHHS

10:35:54 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

10:36:08 Lauren Wilson, Montana Chapter of Pediatric Care

10:37:15 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

10:37:45 Lauren Wilson, Montana Chapter of Pediatric Care

**Closing Statement:**

10:38:30 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, closed the hearing on HB 449.

**HEARING ON HB 648 - Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program**

**Opening Statement:**

10:42:01 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, opened the hearing on HB 648, Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program.

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:47:30 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce, Treasure State Resource

10:48:14 Rebecca Meyers, Billings Chamber of Commerce

10:49:13 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

[EXHIBIT\(230407BUSa4\)](#)

10:53:20 Liz Moore, Montana Nonprofit Association

10:55:25 Courtney Sprunger, self

10:56:45 Ella Smith, Montana Advocates for Children

[EXHIBIT\(230407BUSa5\)](#)

11:00:59 Kami Ryles, Child Care Connection

11:03:25 Sheryl Hutzenbiler, self

11:05:30 Dan Brooks, Billings Chamber of Commerce

11:06:43 Megan Ballenger, Resources

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

11:09:25 Eric Johnston, DPHS

**Questions from Committee:**

11:10:04 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

11:10:31 Heather O'Loughlin, MBPC

11:12:12 Sen. Christopher Pope joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

11:12:21 Rep. Alice Buckley (D), HD 63, closed the hearing on HB 648.

**HEARING ON HB 969 - Creating a third-party alcohol delivery license**

**Opening Statement:**

11:13:44 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 969, Creating a third-party alcohol delivery license.

**Proponent Testimony:**

11:20:06 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association (MRA)

11:23:03 Catherine Holm, Region Manager, InstaCart

**Opponent Testimony:**

11:25:13 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association (MTA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

11:26:49 Steve Swanson, ABCD-DOR

**Questions from Committee:**

11:27:20 Chair Jason Small

11:27:33 Rep. Katie Zolnikov-R

11:28:22 Chair Jason Small

11:28:59 Brad Griffin, MRA

11:29:20 Chair Jason Small

11:29:25 Catherine Holm, InstaCart

11:29:54 Chair Jason Small

11:30:00 Catherine Holm, InstaCart

11:30:33 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

11:31:07 Mark Lewis

11:32:42 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

11:33:00 John Iverson, MTA

11:33:33 Vice Chair Mark Noland

**Closing Statement:**

11:33:55 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 969.

**HEARING ON HB 903 - Generally revise marijuana laws**

**Opening Statement:**

11:36:22 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 903, Generally revise marijuana laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

11:39:46 Kate Kholewa, Montana Cannabis Industry Association

[EXHIBIT\(230407BUSa6\)](#)

11:43:52 Troy Noland

11:44:41 Antonette Lininger, Sacred Sun Farms

11:47:57 Joanna Barney, Sacred Sun Farms

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

11:51:20 Erin Ducharme, Cannabis Control Division, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

11:52:14 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

11:52:45 Antonette Lininger, Sacred Sun Farms

11:53:11 Chair Jason Small

11:53:22 Sen. Walt Sales

11:53:57 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

**Closing Statement:**

11:54:26 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 903.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:56:21

---

Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230407BUSaad\)](#)