

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Small-R, on April 12, 2023 at 8:04 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. 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:** 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 87 04/06/2023  
HB 819 04/06/2023  
HB 828 04/06/2023  
HB 836 04/06/2023  
HB 889 04/06/2023  
HB 898 04/06/2023  
HB 952 04/06/2023

Executive Action:

08:07:37 Sen. Fitzpatrick has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 828 - Authorize an ambulance provider assessment program**

**Opening Statement:**

08:05:07 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, opened the hearing on HB 828, Authorize an ambulance provider assessment program.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:09:25 Don Whalen, Montana Ambulance Association (MAA)

08:11:35 Justin Rose, Great Falls Emergency Services

08:13:38 Marc Kilman Burnham, American Medical Response (AMR)

08:15:59 Audrey Newman, Paramedics of Montana

08:17:17 Jean Bergason, self

08:19:39 Rand Dickson, Deer Lodge Emergency Services

08:20:54 Aiden Mihry, Logan Healthcare

08:21:41 Greg Sheumaker, self

08:22:29 Misty Groves, Great Falls Emergency Services

08:22:53 Richard Cowger, Montana State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:23:51 Mary Lemieux, Health Resources Division, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:24:09 Jason Lay, Miscellaneous Taxes Unit, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:24:57 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:25:25 Rich Cowger, MFA  
08:26:28 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:26:36 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:27:04 Don Whalen, MAA  
08:28:00 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
08:28:18 Jason Lay, DOR  
08:28:52 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:30:53 Mary Lemiux, DPHHS  
08:31:48 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:31:59 Jason Lay, DOR  
08:32:22 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:35:13 Mark Kilman Burnam, MAA  
08:36:24 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:37:43 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R  
08:38:18 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
08:38:30 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R  
08:38:48 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick  
08:39:03 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R  
08:39:32 Sen. Walt Sales  
08:39:54 Rep. Edward Buttrey-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:40:26 Rep. Edward Buttrey (R), HD 21, closed the hearing on HB 828.  
09:05:00 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

**HEARING ON HB 819 - Create Montana community reinvestment act to fund workforce housing**

**Opening Statement:**

08:44:39 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, opened the hearing on HB 819, Create Montana community reinvestment act to fund workforce housing.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:48:20 Jessie Luther, Montana Attainable Housing Alliance (MAHA)

[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa1\)](#)

08:59:05 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

09:00:07 Madison Grady, Montana Association of Realtors

09:00:44 Carry Hegreburg, Montana Bankers Association

09:02:30 Scott Boulanger, Montana Independent Bankers Association

09:02:46 Rebecca Myers, Montana Chamber of Commerce

09:03:21 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish

09:03:43 Amanda Frickle, (MT AFL-CIO)

09:05:05 Robyn Morrison, Montana League of Women Voters

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:05:57 Cheryl Cohen, Montana Board of Housing

**Questions from Committee:**

09:06:30 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:09:56 Jessie Luther, MAHA

09:10:53 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:12:00 Jessie Luther, MAHA

09:12:46 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:13:32 Cheryl Cohen, Montana Board of Housing  
09:13:51 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
09:14:01 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:16:49 Jessie Luther, MAHA  
09:17:26 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:17:39 Rep. Paul Green-R  
09:19:27 Sen. Bruce Gillespie  
09:22:22 Rep. Paul Green-R  
09:23:06 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
09:24:16 Scott Boulanger, Montana Independent Bankers Association  
09:24:32 Sen. Walt Sales  
09:27:03 Rep. Paul Green-R  
09:27:08 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

**Closing Statement:**

09:28:27 Rep. Paul Green (R), HD 41, closed the hearing on HB 819.

**HEARING ON HB 87 - Standardize licensing board organization**

**Opening Statement:**

09:31:43 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 87, Standardize licensing board organization.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:34:04 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office  
09:35:38 Eric Strauss, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)  
09:36:44 Dave Cook, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa2\)](#)

09:40:09 Allen Lloyd, Montana Society of CPAs (MTCPA)  
09:41:20 Mac Minard, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)  
09:43:06 Jean Bransum, Montana Medical Association (MMA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:46:28 Webb Brown, Montana Dental Association (MDA)  
[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa3\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa4\)](#)  
09:52:41 Pareesa Kingery, Montana Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA)  
09:54:57 Brad Longcake, Montana Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA)  
09:56:46 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Optometric Association  
09:58:19 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Athletic Trainer Association  
09:59:06 Deb Kimmet, Business League for Massage Therapy and Body Work  
10:02:54 Brenda DeVries, MT Chapter of American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (MT-ASFMRA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

10:05:55 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:07:24 Webb Brown, MDA  
10:08:35 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
10:09:47 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras, Governor's Office  
10:12:42 Sen. Bruce Gillespie  
10:13:45 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
10:16:04 Mac Minard, MOGA  
10:16:21 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

**Closing Statement:**

10:16:42 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 87.

**HEARING ON HB 889 - Revise the Residential Mobile Home Lot Rental Act**

**Opening Statement:**

10:20:39 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, opened the hearing on HB 889, Revise the Residential Mobile Home Lot Rental Act.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa5\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

10:29:11 Cindy Newman, self

[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa6\)](#)

10:32:22 Representative George Nikolakakos, self

10:34:54 Senator Pat Flowers, self

10:38:36 Janis Bailey, self

10:40:37 Margaret McDonald, Big Sky55+

10:43:25 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish

10:44:32 SK Rossi, City of Missoula, City of Bozeman, Montana Coalition To Solve Homelessness

10:45:41 Vivian Rambo, self

10:47:49 Hannah Kosel, North Missoula Community Development Corporation

10:49:15 Izzy Milch, Forward Montana

**Opponent Testimony:**

10:50:07 Steve Skinner, self

10:52:57 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

10:55:45 Nathan Groven, self

10:58:35 Jess Mortensen, self  
11:01:06 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association (MLA)  
[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa7\)](#)  
11:05:40 Paul Ellis, self  
11:08:40 Kallee Grovom, self  
11:10:15 Sharon Lodge, Montana Landlord Association (MLA)  
11:13:09 Gary Whitney, Montana Landlord Association (MLA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

11:14:23 Cheryl Cohen, Montana Board of Housing

**Questions from Committee:**

11:14:37 Sen. Bruce Gillespie  
11:15:03 Sen. Walt Sales left the meeting.  
11:15:33 Cheryl Cohen, Montana Board of Housing  
11:15:52 Rep. Jonathan Karlen-D  
11:16:52 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
11:17:03 John Sinrud, MLA  
11:21:08 Chair Jason Small  
11:21:33 Rep. Jonathan Karlen-D

**Closing Statement:**

11:22:20 Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D), HD 96, closed the hearing on HB 889.  
11:43:56 Sen. Sales has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 898 - Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act**

**Opening Statement:**

11:28:08 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 898, Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act.

**Proponent Testimony:**

11:30:57 Jasmine Krotkov, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

11:32:27 Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

11:35:43 Chair Jason Small

11:38:11 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

11:39:53 Vice Chair Mark Noland

11:42:53 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

11:43:27 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

11:43:53 Rep. Paul Tuss-D

**Closing Statement:**

11:45:38 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 898.

**HEARING ON HB 836 - Revise insurance laws relating to regulatory waivers**

**Opening Statement:**

11:46:50 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 836, Revise insurance laws relating to regulatory waivers.

**Proponent Testimony:**

11:54:35 Kendall Cotton, Frontier Institute

[EXHIBIT\(230412BUSa8\)](#)

11:56:25 Kevin Braun, Montana State Fund (MSF)

11:57:54 Aimee Grmoljez, American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCI)

11:58:46 Peter Strauss, Montana Self Insurers Association (MSIA)

11:59:44 Liam McCullom, Americans For Prosperity

12:00:19 John Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Montana

12:00:36 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

12:01:19 Frank Cote, Montana State Auditor's Office

**Questions from Committee:**

12:01:36 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

12:02:06 John Iverson, Independent Insurance Agents of Montana

12:02:32 Sen. Walt Sales

12:04:30 Kendall Cotton, Frontier Institute

12:05:17 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

12:07:29 Kevin Braun, MSF

12:08:00 Chair Jason Small

12:08:06 Frank Cote, Montana State Auditor's Office

12:08:42 Vice Chair Mark Noland

12:09:29 Frank Cote, Montana State Auditor's Office

**Closing Statement:**

12:10:59 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 836.

**HEARING ON HB 952 - Create grant program for autism facilities**

**Opening Statement:**

12:14:42 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB 952, Create grant program for autism facilities.

**Proponent Testimony:**

12:17:54 Senator Shane Morigeau, self

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

12:24:27 Lindsay Carter, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, (DPHHS)

**Questions from Committee:**

12:24:54 Chair Jason Small

12:25:00 Lindsay Carter, DPHHS

12:25:15 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

12:25:33 Chair Jason Small

12:26:22 Lindsay Carter, DPHHS

12:26:47 Chair Jason Small

12:26:55 Senator Shane Morigeau, self

12:29:07 Vice Chair Mark Noland

12:29:43 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger-R

**Closing Statement:**

12:30:53 Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R), HD 7, closed the hearing on HB 952.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:31:50

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Daisy Rhodes, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230412BUSaad\)](#)