

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

Call to Order: Chair Keith Regier-R, on April 12, 2023 at 7:59 AM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Keith Regier, Chair (R)
Sen. Barry Usher, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Jen Gross (D)
Sen. Kathy Kelker (D)

Staff Present: Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney
Grace Gibney, 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 193 04/06/2023
HB 479 04/06/2023
HB 517 04/06/2023
HB 551 04/06/2023
HB 886 04/06/2023
HB 915 04/06/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 193 - Revise law for driving without insurance

Opening Statement:

08:01:24 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 193, Revise law for driving without insurance.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

08:05:08 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:07:29 Sen. Andrea Olsen

08:08:20 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

08:10:11 Chair Keith Regier

08:10:23 Maggie Bornstein, ACLUMT

08:11:41 Sen. Andrea Olsen

08:12:50 Rep. Fred Anderson-R

Closing Statement:

08:13:19 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, closed the hearing on HB 193.

HEARING ON HB 551 - Implement constitutional carry into the Montana Constitution

Opening Statement:

08:19:34 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 551, Implement constitutional carry into the Montana Constitution.

Proponent Testimony:

08:20:37 Gary Marbut, Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA)

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa1\)](#)

08:24:08 Peter Reiss, self
08:26:54 Tiffany Neumann, self
08:28:47 Ken Conrad, self
08:32:22 Garrett Bacon, self
08:33:33 Melinda Davis, DC Project
08:34:03 Jason Lee, self

Opponent Testimony:

08:35:44 Nick Gevock, Gun Owners For Safety

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa2\)](#)

08:38:27 Shani Henry, self
08:40:44 Shawn Reagor, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

08:42:23 Sen. Susan Webber
08:42:50 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R
08:44:20 Sen. Andrea Olsen
08:45:53 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R
08:48:26 Sen. Andrea Olsen
08:49:09 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

Closing Statement:

08:49:40 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 551.

HEARING ON HB 886 - Revise laws related to access to sealed youth court records

Opening Statement:

08:51:10 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 886, Revise laws related to access to sealed youth court records.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

08:54:36 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

08:57:23 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, closed the hearing on HB 886.

HEARING ON HB 517 - Constitutional amendment regarding board of regents

Opening Statement:

08:58:36 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB 517, Constitutional amendment regarding board of regents.

Proponent Testimony:

09:02:43 Gary Marbut, Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA)

09:04:31 Henry Kriegel, Americans For Prosperity

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa3\)](#)

09:10:18 Garrett Bacon, self

09:11:23 Rachel Stevenson, Young Americans for Liberty

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa4\)](#)

09:15:14 Nicholas Ellerton, Young Americans for Liberty

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa5\)](#)

09:17:55 Peter Reiss, self

09:19:10 Ken Conrad, self

09:20:01 Dylan Dean, Young Americans for Liberty
[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa6\)](#)

09:23:27 Jacob Riegelhuth, Young Americans for Liberty

09:24:56 Dylan O'Brien, Young Americans for Liberty

09:27:55 Jason Lee, self

09:29:29 Liam McCollum, self

09:32:43 Melinda Davis, self

09:33:45 Tyler Coward, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)

Opponent Testimony:

09:36:24 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System

09:42:29 Lorelai Michael-Owens, Associated Students of University of Montana (ASUM)

09:45:00 Ethan Hanley, Associated Students of University of Montana (ASUM)

09:46:51 Wyatt Clark, self

09:50:13 Alexandra Lin, self

09:52:36 Margaret McDonald, Big Sky 55+
[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa7\)](#)

09:55:45 Isabella Roccisano, Associated Students of University of Montana (ASMU)

09:56:56 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

09:59:43 Katie Fire Thunder, self

10:01:02 Peyton Wilson, self

10:01:56 Maggie Bell, self

10:03:33 Shawn Reagor, Montana Human Rights Network
10:05:06 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters Montana
10:06:34 Izzy Milch, Forward Montana

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

10:07:33 Chair Keith Regier
10:07:35 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System
10:09:34 Vice Chair Barry Usher
10:10:33 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity
10:10:50 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
10:11:23 Tyler Coward, FIRE
10:14:00 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
10:14:24 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System
10:14:52 Sen. Daniel Emrich
10:15:21 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System
10:19:09 Sen. Theresa Manzella
10:20:15 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System
10:22:37 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:23:40 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System
10:27:46 Sen. Andrea Olsen
10:28:11 Rep. Mike Hopkins-R

10:33:03 Sen. Susan Webber

10:35:15 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System

10:36:57 Vice Chair Barry Usher

10:38:47 Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, Montana University System

Closing Statement:

10:38:55 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, closed the hearing on HB 517.

HEARING ON HB 915 - Constitutional amendment to change process to select supreme court justices

Opening Statement:

10:42:30 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 915, Constitutional amendment to change process to select supreme court justices.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa8\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

10:57:36 Henry Kriegel, Americans For Prosperity

Opponent Testimony:

11:01:55 John Mudd, State Bar of Montana

11:08:25 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa9\)](#)

11:15:55 Noreen Appling-Freistadt, self

11:17:42 Margaret McDonald, Big Sky 55+

11:19:38 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

11:20:29 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

11:20:59 Ta'jin Perez, Western Native Voice

11:21:54 Richard Liebert, self
11:23:00 Kris Glenn, self
11:25:26 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters Montana
11:26:48 Courtney Smith, Forward Montana
11:27:27 Tom Tschida, self
11:28:08 Joan Kresich, self
11:29:36 Deborah Hanson, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

11:31:59 Sen. Daniel Emrich
11:32:15 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)
11:32:47 Sen. Susan Webber
11:33:12 Rep. Bill Mercer-R
11:35:15 Sen. Bob Brown
11:35:50 Rep. Bill Mercer-R
11:37:05 Sen. Andrea Olsen
11:37:43 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers
11:40:12 Sen. Chris Friedel
11:44:03 Rep. Bill Mercer-R

Closing Statement:

11:44:17 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 915.

HEARING ON HB 479 - Provide appropriation for DOJ to assume law enforcement PL-280

Opening Statement:

11:47:46 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB 479, Provide appropriation for DOJ to assume law enforcement PL-280.

Discussion:

11:52:28 Sen. Andrea Olsen

11:53:34 Senator Greg Hertz, self

Proponent Testimony:

11:51:25 Senator Greg Hertz, self

11:54:40 Gale Decker, Lake County Commissioner

11:57:00 Scott Richner, Lake County Commissioner

11:57:59 James Lapotka, Lake County Attorney

Opponent Testimony:

11:59:32 Thomas Lozeau Jr., self

11:59:32 Thomas Lozeau Jr., self

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa11\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa12\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa13\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa14\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230412JUSa15\)](#)

12:19:35 Ethan Friedlander, self

12:22:21 Lexx Pierre, self

12:28:42 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

12:31:27 Chair Keith Regier

12:31:35 Gale Decker, Lake County Commissioner
12:32:56 Sen. Susan Webber
12:33:40 James Lapotka, Lake County Attorney
12:35:03 Sen. Bob Brown
12:36:15 Gale Decker, Lake County Commissioner
12:36:20 Vice Chair Barry Usher
12:37:50 James Lapotka, Lake County Attorney

Closing Statement:

12:38:29 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, closed the hearing on HB 479.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:41:14

Grace Gibney, Secretary

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