

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) FISH AND GAME**

**Call to Order:** Chair Steve Hinebauch-R, on April 13, 2023 at 3:54 PM, in 422

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)  
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)

**Staff Present:** Casey Pallister, Research Analyst  
Jacelyn Sterling, 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 372 04/07/2023

HB 846 04/07/2023

Executive Action:

HB 383 TO TABLE

15:54:53 Sen. Noland has left  
15:54:55 Sen. Fuller has left  
15:55:33 Chair Hinebauch has left  
15:57:24 Sen. McClafferty has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 372 - Establish right to hunt in Constitution**

**Opening Statement:**

15:55:39 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), HD 13, opened the hearing on HB 372, Establish right to hunt in Constitution.  
15:56:12 Sen. Flowers has arrived  
15:56:25 Sen. Curdy has arrived

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:02:18 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)  
[EXHIBIT\(230413FISa1\)](#)  
16:08:44 Garrett Bacon, self  
16:09:24 Michael McKenrick, self  
16:09:56 Kris Killorn, Outdoor Heritage Coalition (OHC)  
[EXHIBIT\(230413FISa2\)](#)  
16:14:32 Bob Gilbert, Walleyes Unlimited of Montana  
16:16:48 Tim McKenrick, self  
16:17:13 Joziah Louwersheimer, self  
16:19:18 Thomas Baumeister, Vice Chair, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Angles (MT BHA)  
16:21:43 Peggy Trenk, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

16:22:45 Brian Solan, Montana Wild Sheep Foundation, Vice Chair, Legislative Sportsmen Caucus

16:24:20 Chuck Rein, self

16:27:22 Bill Mitchell, self

16:29:52 Jeff Darrah, Executive Director, Montana Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife (MTSFW)

16:32:36 Chris Fortune, Montana Regional Director, Mule Deer Foundation (MDF)

16:34:41 Justin Duffy, Board of Directors, Montana State Houndsmen Association

16:36:21 Ross Feenstra, Chairman of the Board, Montana Houndsmen Association

16:37:22 Chris Morgan, Montana Trappers Association

[EXHIBIT\(230413FISa3\)](#)

16:41:12 Matt Lumley, National Trappers Association (NTA)

16:43:11 Pat Bauer, President, Southwest Montana Chapter of Safari Club International (SWMT SCI)

16:44:22 Sen. Noland has arrived

16:44:23 Sen. Daniel Emrich left the meeting.

16:46:37 Kerry White, self

16:49:04 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

16:50:15 Ben Erickson, Principal, Citizens for Balanced Use (CBU), Vice President, Outdoor Heritage Coalition

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:52:36 Rod Bullis, Helena Hunters and Anglers Association

16:54:00 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

16:57:05 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies

16:59:45 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)

17:01:40 Keegan Medrano, American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU

17:02:54 Sen. Emrich has arrived

17:04:12 Nick Gevok, Endangered Species Coalition  
[EXHIBIT\(230413FISa4\)](#)

17:06:28 Stephanie Farac, self

17:07:34 Dr. Kari Gunderson, self

17:09:26 KC York, Trap Free Montana Public Lands

17:11:26 Ta'jin Perez, Deputy Director, Western Native Voice

17:12:47 Peter Guynn, self

17:15:07 Jim Bell, self

17:17:16 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana

17:19:43 Caryn Miske, Sierra Club

17:22:15 Michael Stoerger, self

17:23:48 Chris Anderson, People and Carnivores

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

17:26:18 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), HD 13, closed the hearing on HB 372.

17:27:58 Chair Hinebauch has arrived

**HEARING ON HB 846 - Resident bonus point system for Smith River**

**Opening Statement:**

17:37:09 Rep. Tom France (D), HD 94, opened the hearing on HB 846, Resident bonus point system for Smith River.

**Proponent Testimony:**

- 17:41:17 Representative Gary Parry, HD 39, Co-Sponsor
- 17:41:59 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)
- 17:42:24 Thomas Baumeister, Vice Chair, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)
- 17:43:13 Nick Gevock, Helena Hunters and Anglers

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

- 17:43:53 Hope Stockwell, Administrator of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

**Questions from Committee:**

- 17:44:19 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 17:44:37 Rep. Tom France
- 17:45:00 Sen. Daniel Emrich
- 17:45:33 Hope Stockwell, FWP

**Closing Statement:**

- 17:45:50 Rep. Tom France (D), HD 94, closed the hearing on HB 846.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 383 - Establish the Montana hunters and anglers community fund**

- 17:48:13 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Brown moved that **HB 383 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 17:48:33 **Motion:** Sen. Pat Flowers moved that **HB 383 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

- 17:48:39 Sen. Pat Flowers
- 17:50:28 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Emrich, voting no.
- 17:50:40 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bob Brown moved that **HB 383 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:50:48 Vice Chair Bob Brown  
17:51:37 Sen. Pat Flowers  
17:52:24 Chair Steve Hinebauch  
17:52:28 Sen. Daniel Emrich  
17:52:32 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Daniel Emrich moved that **HB 383 TO TABLE.**  
17:52:35 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 7 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Fox, Sen. McClafferty, Sen. Vermeire, voting no.

**Committee Discussion:** discussion of remaining bills and change of vote (Sen. Fox) for table motion on HB 383

17:53:43 Vice Chair Bob Brown  
17:54:04 Chair Steve Hinebauch  
17:54:36 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty  
17:54:46 Chair Steve Hinebauch  
17:55:03 Vice Chair Mike Fox  
17:55:16 Chair Steve Hinebauch  
17:55:40 Vice Chair Bob Brown

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:56:00

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230413FISaad\)](#)