

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Small-R, on April 17, 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:** 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 437 04/14/2023

Executive Action:

HB 128  
HB 137  
HB 881  
HB 898  
HB 918 BE CONCURRED IN  
HB 437  
HB 808

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 128 - Generally revise marijuana laws**

08:08:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 128 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

08:08:34 Chair Jason Small

08:08:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:08:17 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

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

08:09:52 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 137 BE CONCURRED IN.**

08:10:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 137 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

08:10:34 Erin Sullivan

08:11:57 Chair Jason Small

08:10:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:12:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 137 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

08:12:51 Erin Sullivan

08:14:44 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:14:59 Erin Sullivan

08:15:10 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:15:25 Erin Sullivan

08:12:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:15:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 137 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

08:15:54 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:15:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Terry Vermeire

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 881 - Generally revise economic development laws**

08:17:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 881 BE CONCURRED IN.**

08:17:06 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 881 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

08:17:44 Erin Sullivan

08:17:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:18:53 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 881 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

08:19:14 Erin Sullivan

08:18:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:20:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 881 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

08:20:44 Chair Jason Small

08:20:32 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:20:32 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 898 - Revise the Montana Microbusiness Development Act**

08:21:47 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 898 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

08:21:52 Chair Jason Small

08:21:47 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

08:21:47 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Willis Curdy

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

08:22:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 918 BE CONCURRED IN.**

08:22:34 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**HEARING ON HB 437 - Revise drug laws**

**Opening Statement:**

08:23:32 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 437, Revise drug laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:28:05 Alan Donne, Department of Justice (DOJ)

08:29:06 Rebeca Decamara, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities  
Division - Department of Public Health and Human Services (BHDD-  
DPHHS)

08:31:34 Travis Spinder, Division of Forensic Science - Department of Justice  
(DFS-DOJ)

08:32:15 Scott Larson, Division of Forensic Science - Department of Justice (DFS-  
DOJ)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:32:51 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:36:44 Rebeca Decamara, BHDD-DPHHS

08:36:53 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:37:22 Travis Spinder, DFS-DOJ

08:38:06 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:40:01 Alan Donne, DOJ

08:40:20 Sen. Walt Sales

08:41:30 Rep. Katie Zolnikov-R

08:41:46 Sen. Walt Sales

08:42:03 Rebeca Decamara, BHDD-DPHHS

08:42:14 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:42:19 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:44:43 Rebeca Decamara, BHDD-DPHHS

08:45:18 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:48:22 Alan Donne, DOJ  
08:48:33 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:49:32 Travis Spinder, DFS-DOJ  
08:51:23 Vice Chair Mark Noland  
08:51:32 Sen. Walt Sales  
08:51:52 Alan Donne, DOJ  
08:52:45 Vice Chair Willis Curdy  
08:53:23 Rep. Katie Zolnikov-R

**Closing Statement:**

08:54:37 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 437.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 437 - Revise drug laws**

08:58:11 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 437 BE CONCURRED IN.**

08:58:19 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 437 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

08:58:37 Erin Sullivan

09:00:08 Chair Jason Small

08:58:19 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:01:01 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 437 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

09:01:01 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

09:01:01 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 808 - Revise surety insurance laws related to bail bonds**

09:02:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Willis Curdy moved that **HB 808 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

- 09:03:13 Vice Chair Mark Noland
- 09:03:17 Erin Sullivan
- 09:08:12 Vice Chair Mark Noland
- 09:09:17 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
- 09:10:10 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
- 09:02:55 **Vote:** Motion carried 5 - 2 by voice vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Sales, voting no.
- 09:10:56 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 808 BE AMENDED.**
- 09:10:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy
- 09:12:36 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 808 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
- 09:12:36 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 2 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
Sen. Pope, By Proxy
- 09:12:36 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland
- Committee Discussion:** Schedule
- 09:13:53 Chair Jason Small
- 09:14:24 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
- 09:14:36 Chair Jason Small

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 09:15:43

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Daisy Rhodes, Secretary