

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Walt Sales-R, on April 19, 2023 at 3:26 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Jason Small (R)  
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)

**Staff Present:** Jason Mohr, 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:

Executive Action:

HB 473 TO TABLE  
HB 870 TO TABLE  
HB 924 TO TABLE  
HB 928 BE CONCURRED IN

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 473 - Provide selenium standard for Lake Kooconusa**

15:27:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 473 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:27:48 Sen. Ryan Lynch

15:28:05 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

15:29:26 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Lang, Sen. Usher, voting yes.  
Sen. Lang, By Proxy

15:30:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 473 TO TABLE.**

15:30:00 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 870 - Revise tax rate for agricultural property owned by certain nonprofits**

15:30:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 870 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:32:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 870 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:32:19 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

15:32:25 Jason Mohr

15:33:28 Vice Chair Walt Sales

15:34:06 Jason Mohr

15:34:19 Vice Chair Walt Sales

15:34:38 Sen. Bob Brown

15:35:07 Jason Mohr

15:35:28 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau

15:35:51 Sen. Willis Curdy joined the meeting.

15:36:00 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown, Sen. Lang, Sen. Small, Sen. Usher, voting yes.  
Sen. Lang, By Proxy

15:36:53 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 870 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:37:01 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:37:43 Vice Chair Walt Sales  
15:38:31 Sen. Ryan Lynch  
15:38:55 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:39:20 Sen. Bob Brown  
15:39:30 **Substitute Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **HB 870 TO TABLE.**  
15:39:30 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Lang, Sen. Usher, voting no.  
Sen. Lang, By Proxy

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 924 - Prohibit lease or transfer of water right out of state until 2048**

15:40:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 924 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
**Discussion:**  
15:41:01 Vice Chair Shane Morigeau  
15:41:33 Sen. Willis Curdy  
15:40:45 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Brown, Sen. Lang, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Usher, voting yes.  
Sen. Lang, By Proxy  
15:42:55 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 924 TO TABLE.**  
15:43:55 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 928 - Clarify BOGC authority over produced waters**

15:43:23 **Motion:** Vice Chair Walt Sales moved that **HB 928 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
**Discussion:**  
15:43:39 Vice Chair Walt Sales  
15:43:47 Jason Mohr  
15:45:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Flowers, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Morigeau, voting no.  
15:43:23 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Barry Usher

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:45:38

---

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230419NASaad\)](#)