

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

Call to Order: Chair Jason Small-R, on April 27, 2023 at 9:01 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 141 04/26/2023

Executive Action:

HB 903 BE CONCURRED IN AS
AMENDED
HB 152 TO TABLE
HB 141 BE CONCURRED IN

HEARING ON HB 141 - Revise Blackfoot mitigation fund laws

Opening Statement:

09:02:15 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 141, Revise Blackfoot mitigation fund laws.

Proponent Testimony:

09:04:56 John Bloomquist, Attorney, Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company

09:08:26 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfoot Tribe

09:08:46 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SrWRC)

09:09:22 Megan Bjerke, Water Resources Division Financial Manager, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

09:10:04 Ta'jin Perez, Deputy Director, Western Native Voice

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

09:11:00 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:11:22 Rep. Llew Jones

09:12:06 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:13:48 Rep. Llew Jones

09:15:28 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:16:05 Megan Bjerke, DNRC

09:16:27 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:17:00 Megan Bjerke, DNRC

09:17:23 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:17:48 Rep. Llew Jones

09:19:49 Sen. Walt Sales
09:20:46 Rep. Llew Jones
09:21:46 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:21:56 Krista Lee Evans, SrWRC

Closing Statement:

09:22:43 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 18, closed the hearing on HB 141.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 903 - Generally revise marijuana laws

09:36:41 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 903 BE CONCURRED IN.**

09:36:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 903 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

09:37:28 Sen. Walt Sales
09:38:09 Erin Sullivan
09:38:57 Sen. Walt Sales
09:39:09 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:39:28 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:39:53 Sen. Walt Sales
09:39:59 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:40:21 Erin Sullivan
09:40:45 Chair Jason Small
09:41:00 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
09:41:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 903 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

09:41:51 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
09:42:02 Chair Jason Small
09:42:32 Vice Chair Mark Noland
09:42:41 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:43:00 Chair Jason Small

09:43:06 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

09:43:19 Chair Jason Small

09:43:41 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:43:55 Chair Jason Small

09:44:00 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:44:04 Chair Jason Small

09:44:10 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:44:17 **Substitute Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 903 TO TABLE AMENDMENT.**

09:44:27 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Sen. Pope, Sen. Small, Sen. Vermeire, voting no.
Sen. Pope, By Proxy

09:45:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 903 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

09:45:47 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:46:23 Erin Sullivan

09:46:40 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:47:13 Chair Jason Small

09:47:51 Vice Chair Mark Noland

09:48:03 Sen. Walt Sales

09:48:18 Erin Sullivan

09:49:12 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:51:10 Sen. Jason Ellsworth joined the meeting.

09:51:15 Sen. Jason Ellsworth

09:51:56 Chair Jason Small

09:52:05 Sen. Jason Ellsworth

09:52:34 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

09:52:54 Chair Jason Small

09:53:02 Sen. Jason Ellsworth

09:53:26 Sen. Walt Sales

09:53:52 Sen. Jason Ellsworth

09:54:55 Sen. Walt Sales
09:55:18 Sen. Jason Ellsworth
09:55:59 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
09:56:19 Sen. Jason Ellsworth
09:58:31 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, voting no.
09:59:11 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 903 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

09:59:27 Sen. Jason Ellsworth
10:00:31 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:01:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
09:59:11 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small
10:01:40 Sen. Ellsworth has left

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 152 - Revise laws related to professional and occupational licensure

10:02:22 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 152 BE CONCURRED IN.**
10:02:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 152 BE AMENDED.**

Discussion:

10:03:23 Chair Jason Small
10:04:54 Vice Chair Mark Noland
10:05:58 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:06:00 **Vote:** Motion failed 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellsworth, voting yes.
Sen. Ellsworth, By Proxy
10:07:59 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 152 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

10:08:19 Chair Jason Small
10:09:18 Vice Chair Willis Curdy
10:09:35 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
10:09:26 **Vote:** Motion failed 9 - 1 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellsworth, voting yes.
Sen. Ellsworth, By Proxy

10:10:26 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 152 TO TABLE.**

10:10:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 141 - Revise Blackfeet mitigation fund laws

10:10:54 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HB 141 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

09:24:26 Discussion of HB 903 Amendments

10:11:15 Sen. Walt Sales

10:12:58 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:10:54 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Susan Webber

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:13:05

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents:[EXHIBIT\(230427BUSaad\)](#)